



THE OLIVE TREE

"All the believers were together and they had everything in common...and the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved". Acts 2:44-47

LCNZ ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

Amber Venner

'It is a great honour to be invited to serve in this way the church that has nurtured me from my youngest years', said newly elected Lutheran Church of New Zealand (LCNZ) President Rev Mark Whitfield.

In an emotional acceptance speech, he said, 'I come to this position of servant leadership as flawed and imperfect, with some trepidation, some nervousness and even some self-doubt. 'I resisted the call to presidency fairly vigorously, but your vote – the vote of this convention – for me is confirmation that the Lord has spoken and his will is being done.'

Over 100 delegates and supporters, including five LCA officials, attended the 36th Convention of Synod of the LCNZ, hosted by St Pauls Lutheran Church Wellington on 18 and 19 June 2011.

Synod felt keenly the absence of the Christchurch delegation, which was unable to attend because of further earthquakes in that region.

At the opening service the Rt Hon Sir Anand Satyanand, Governor General of New Zealand, spoke about the history and conception of the LCNZ and New Zealand's culture of respect for religious tolerance and diversity. 'The Lutheran Church has been part of New Zealand's tapestry of faiths since soon after the Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840', he said. 'While the Lutheran Church is a small church in New Zealand, the arrival of migrants and refugees in the

1940s and 1950s, and more recently from Asia and Africa, has seen it become increasingly diverse. In this respect, the changes within the church mirror the wider shifts to New Zealand's cultural and ethnic landscape that have occurred in the last 25 years.'

Highlights of the convention were the reports from congregations, reporting to synod the many mission and ministry areas that are being explored throughout the country.

Outgoing president Rev Robert Erickson and his wife Betsy were farewelled at the conference dinner on the Saturday evening. Pastor Erickson was presented with gifts from parishioners and also from the LCNZ. Several people made speeches thanking Pastor Robert and Betsy for their faithful and kind service to the LCNZ in the various roles they have filled.

Daniel Carswell from Wanganui said, 'I will always remember the kindness, sincerity and warmth of both of you, Rob and Betsy, during some of the hardest times of my life.'

This sentiment was echoed by Wellington's Ian MacFarlane, who also commented on Pastor Rob's quiet style, saying, 'Francis of Assisi once said, "Preach the gospel always, and if necessary use words". Robert, you never needed words.'

After the handover period Pastor Erickson will travel to Queensland to take up his role as LCA interim pastor. ■



contents

Devotional 3

Farewell to President Rob & Betsy Erickson 4

News from Hamilton, Waikato & Bay of Plenty 5

National Youth Camp 6

New SMP for Wanganui 8

Lutherans for Life 9

LLL Report 9

Training Young Leaders 10

God is No Fascist 11

Intercessory Prayer 12

“The Olive Tree” is the newsletter of the Lutheran Church of New Zealand. It is published four times a year, and is currently produced from the LSM / LCNZ Office.

Editing/Production Team:

Anna Kroehn & Tony Cuttle
5 Adrien Way, Palmerston North 4412
anna_kroehn@hotmail.com

Subscriptions & distributions:

LCNZ Administrator, PO Box 7606, Newtown, Wellington 6242
Phone 04 385 2540; e-mail lcnz@clear.net.nz

Please note that the opinions of writers in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor, nor the policies of the LCNZ.

Contributions can be submitted via email at anna_kroehn@hotmail.com

Photos, clockwise from top:

The Erickson's receive gifts in farewell from the members of COS on behalf of the LCNZ;
The Rt Hon Sir Anand Satyanand, Governor General of New Zealand, addresses Synod;
The delegation of visitors from the LCA; Deborah Venz (Business Manager, LCA), Johnathan Krause (ALWS), Glenice Hartwich (Board for Mission - Project Officer), Trevor Ruthenburg (Executive Officer, LCA).
Absent: Amber Venner (Marketing and Communications Manager - ALC).

Letter to the Editor...

19 August 2011

At the Synod of the Lutheran Church of New Zealand (LCNZ) held in Wellington on 18th-19th June 2011 Pastor Mark Whitfield was elected President of the LCNZ.

I rejoiced at this decision because Pastor Mark is a dedicated Pastor, an accomplished musician and a Kiwi by birth and nurture. That he was not installed at Synod was no doubt due to General President Mike Semmler not being present.

Now 9 weeks later we have an Acting President Pastor Milton Fritsch and no indication of when Pastor Mark is to be installed.

My understanding is that Synod is the decision making body of the Church and between Synod's, Council of Synod, administers the Church. When major decisions have to be between Synods this is done by either a postal ballot of Synod's persons or a Synod is convened.

The man/woman in the pews is asking "what is going on"?

Synod has spoken and elected a new President but that Pastor seems to be in limbo.

Why?

Given the serious nature of the situation information/ answers to the Church are necessary and required now.

It is time for Council of Synod to provide answers/ explanation to the Church.

Sincerely, Buster Kells



A SAFE PLACE FOR ALL - The LCA/LCNZ Safe Place Committee has established a confidential service for responding to complaints of sexual abuse/ harassment by church employees. Trained advisers are available to help. FREE PHONE 0800 356 887



DEVOTIONAL

*Well then
Synod's over
Reports given, remits presented, elections held
Home again
Caught up with sleep, family, washing, lawns.....
It was a great Synod, with that theme about love living
etc.
Whoops! Love living? That means the here and now.*

'When love comes to life – as the Father sent me', the theme of LCNZ's 36th Synod is a remotivation, a reinspiring, from God, to be part of our daily Jesus walk.

For us Christians, 'love comes to life' every day as we remember that God loved us so much that He gave His only son, to die for us on the cross, rise again so we have our sins forgiven. I have peace in my heart as a forgiven child of God. I have His love surrounding my days. I enjoy His company, His strength, His blessings each day of my life. Nothing and no one can take this away from me.

If God's love stops with me, if I hold all of it to myself, for my well being, I have forgotten that God loves

The Olive Tree, September 2011

everyone else in His creation just like me even though they may not know it : His love is to be passed on. John 3:16 says 'God so loved the world that he gave...' Love is giving.

'...as the Father sent me'. One idea of being 'sent' is that God's love is sent/given outside of ourselves to whoever we meet. So, when I walk my dog Emma, I can send out God's love with a smile, a greeting, a listening ear, an encouraging word, a commitment to pray for them... We can be 'sent' by the Father right where we are – answering the phone, emailing, letter writing, any interaction with others gives opportunity to extend God's love.

Elected officers were applauded at Synod – signalling the end of our responsibility? Not so : we elected them, we care for them – praying, encouraging, forgiving, helping, together led by the Spirit.

I'm not 'walking down the road with you' God : You are holding my hand and walking with me.

'Lead us, Heavenly Father lead us...' so that Your amazing love comes to life in us, sent daily to love others.

Marg Gust

FAREWELL TO PRESIDENT ROB AND BETSY ERICKSON

Pastor Milton Fritsch

It has been a privilege for me to get to know both Rob and Betsy over the past five years. I have also had the joy of serving under Rob as Vice President of LCNZ for the past 18 months.

Rob came to New Zealand in his capacity as the Lutheran Church of Australia Interim Pastor. He was assigned to the Martin Parish and to Upper Moutere before taking up his duties as President of the LCNZ in October 2007.



During Rob's presidency, he has overseen many changes and developments within the Lutheran Church of New Zealand. Some of these include:

- The purchase and renovation of a new worship centre for Botany Lutheran Church.
- The relocation of the National office from Palmerston North to Wellington.
- The renovation of two manses within the LCNZ.
- The establishment of covenant of agreement between the Hamilton and the Bay of Plenty congregations which led them to calling Pastor John Davison to serve this ministry area.
- Providing Presidential assistance to the members of St. Paul's Christchurch during their time of need.

In addition to this, President Rob has travelled extensively throughout the LCNZ leading worship services during times of extended vacancies. He has also encouraged and supported congregations in his role as Mission Director. Rob has also faithfully represented the wider church in his involvement on the Council of Presidents and on General Church Council. Rob has also been an active participant in our Church Workers Conferences.

Rob and Betsy have opened the doors of the President's manse both in Palmerston North and in Wellington to accommodate visitors and gatherings on a number of occasions. Betsy has undertaken the huge task of going through the church's

archives, helping with the relocation of the National Office (twice). Betsy has been an encouraging supporter to all the Church Workers, their families and to the congregations of the LCNZ.

For all that both of you have done during your time here in New Zealand, we say **thank you and God bless as you relocate back to Australia!**

My prayer is that both of you leave these shores with many fond memories of your time here in New Zealand.

As we farewell the Ericksons, we look forward to the leadership and guidance from our newly elected President Mark Whitfield. We pray that God will bless Pastor Mark and his family as they relocate into their new home and as Mark begins his term as President of the Lutheran Church of New Zealand. ■

MONRAD – ENLIGHTENED AND PROGRESSIVE

The Danish Prime minister and Lutheran Bishop Ditlev Gothard Monrad was one of the most outstanding men Denmark has produced. He was an expert in Oriental languages and translated 'The Arabian Nights' into Danish - for his own amusement! As a theologian, scholar and politician he was foremost in the introduction of enlightened and progressive ideas in church, school, and government. His mental powers earned him the highest academic honours. He was a skilled translator of the Old Testament from the originals as well as an eminent political writer.

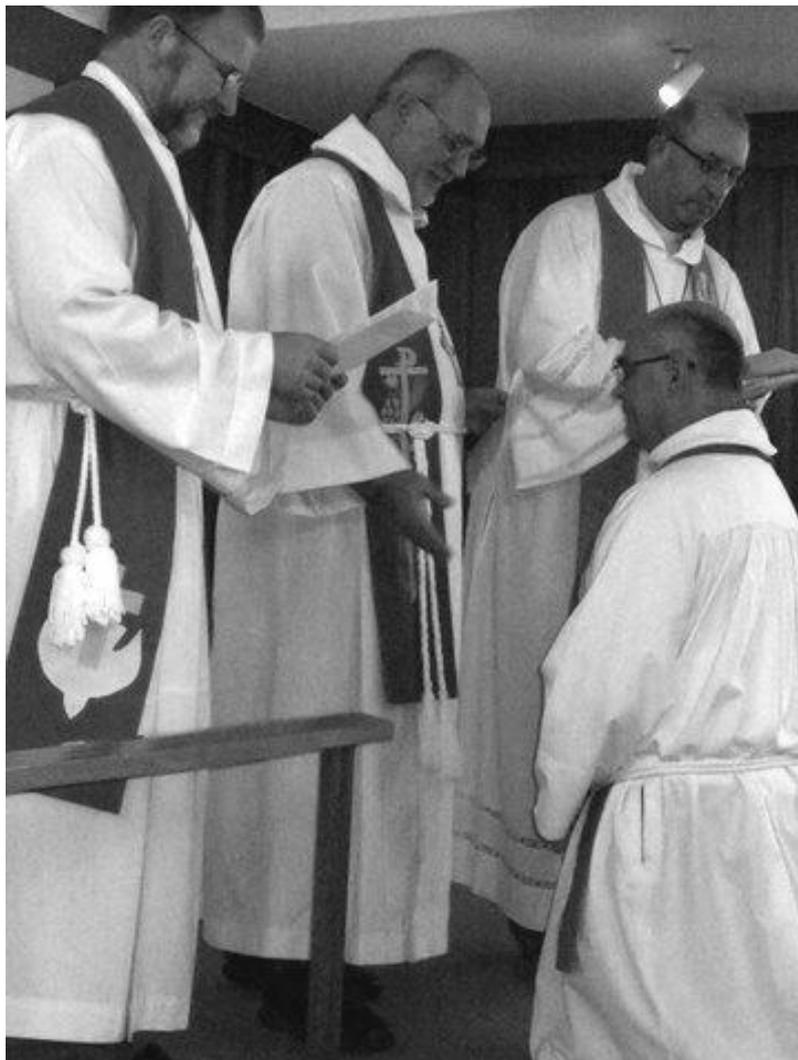
Though Monrad was only a passing figure on the New Zealand scene - he certainly showed his courage and

versatility by attacking the heavy task of bush settlement - we owe much to him not the least for his gift of the priceless Monrad Collection of Etchings at The Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa. We owe him too for his example of successful forest settlement, for his encouragement to thousands of his countrymen to emigrate here and for adding so much to the Christianity, to the culture and to the development of our nation.

Bishop Monrad's faithful Christian writings are as fresh and timely as if written yesterday. And they totally relevant to our lives and our times today. This year we celebrate the bicentenary of his birth on the 24th of November 1811. The programme of events and a warm invitation to participate are included in this issue of 'The Olive Tree'. Do please join us. Email: bishopmonrad200@monrad.org.nz

NEWS FROM HAMILTON, WAIKATO AND THE BAY OF PLENTY

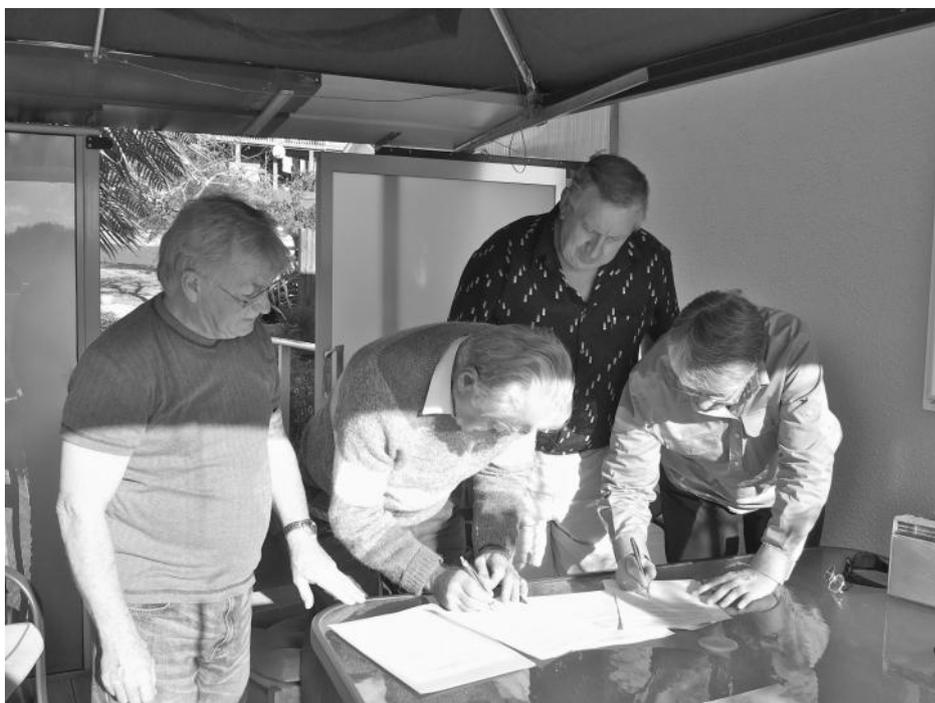
Parishes in Hamilton, Tauranga, Kawerau and Whakatane have solved the problem of not having their own pastor by agreeing to work together under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to support a full-time pastoral position. The Waikato/ Bay of Plenty parishes have undertaken to provide mutual support, fellowship, resource and experience sharing based on mutual trust and respect. The MOU has seven principles and includes a proposed service schedule. It was formally signed by the four parish chairs in May in time for Pastor John Davison to be installed in Hamilton on 5 June 2011.



St Matthew's, Hamilton, had a full to overflowing church for the occasion of Pastor John Davison's installation on Sunday 5 June 2011. President Rob Erickson officiated, assisted by Pastors Mark Whitfield and Milton Fritsch. This was a much anticipated occasion by the members and friends of the Hamilton and Bay of Plenty congregations after the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding.

During the service Pastor Mark played our ancient piano as if it was a concert Steinway. Members of the four congregations which make up the ministry area presented Pastor John with symbols of ministry during the installation service.

Also present were members from Whakatane, Kawerau, Tauranga, Botany and Mountainside along with representatives of local Hamilton churches, an MP and members of John's family and friends from as far afield as Griffith in New South Wales. The service was followed by a shared lunch and abundant fellowship. ■



Right: Barry Walker (Whakatane), Erik Rohde (Kawerau), Leon Jurgens (Tauranga) and Jill Hobden (Hamilton) signing the Waikato/ Bay of Plenty Memorandum of Understanding in Tauranga.

YOUNG PEOPLE: WALKING TOGETHER IN FORGIVENESS

The 2011 National Youth Camp was another success with 33 people in attendance. We camped at the Karakariki Christian Camp, just outside of Hamilton and enjoyed a full week of fun, activities and worship. With the theme “Free: forgiven to forgive”, we all learnt more about how much God loves us just the way we are, but doesn’t want to leave us that way! His forgiveness and His Spirit is sufficient to change us from the inside out, and give us the strength to pass on God’s love to others, through showing them forgiveness too!

There wasn’t much chance of getting bored: between all the on-site and offsite activities offered at KCC, we got to have a go at all sorts of things. The top town challenge afternoon saw us attempt belayed tree-climbing, air rifle target shooting, darts, archery and an



obstacle ropes course. Wednesday afternoon, 20 campers went on a caving experience that challenged everyone at their own level of comfort – I don’t think anyone came back disappointed from that trip! We had a beautiful formal dinner prepared by chef extraordinaire, Terence Brinkman and assistant John Nelson: four courses including palette cleansing sorbet and home baked Ciabatta bread! Following our fancy dress, many coursed dinner was a bush/barn dance night, learning the finer arts of partnered and progressive dancing, mixed with a little bit of fun: the Macarena, the Nut Bush, the Limbo and the Chicken Dance. We needed to work off some of that food while desperately making room for the chocolate fountain

yet to come to top off the evening!

Whoever thought \$150 could buy so much excitement and wholesome fun?! Here are some quotes from young people about their experiences:

“I’m glad I had a really good co-leader that supported me with a lot. The activities were run really well. When I got back from camp I was also able to forgive someone that I hadn’t been able to before. Shot! It was a mean camp. Solid as!”

“I found camp to be a great experience this year (despite being ill). I got a lot out of it. It was amazing to see the younger members open up, speak out and even pray for others. The change and impact God had on them through camp was amazing”.

“I loved camp because I got to be a small group leader. I really enjoyed the opportunity for me to step up and do it. I also enjoyed seeing my friends again. And playing the awesome range of games and activities that they had to offer and learning more about God.”

“What I got out of NYC 2011:

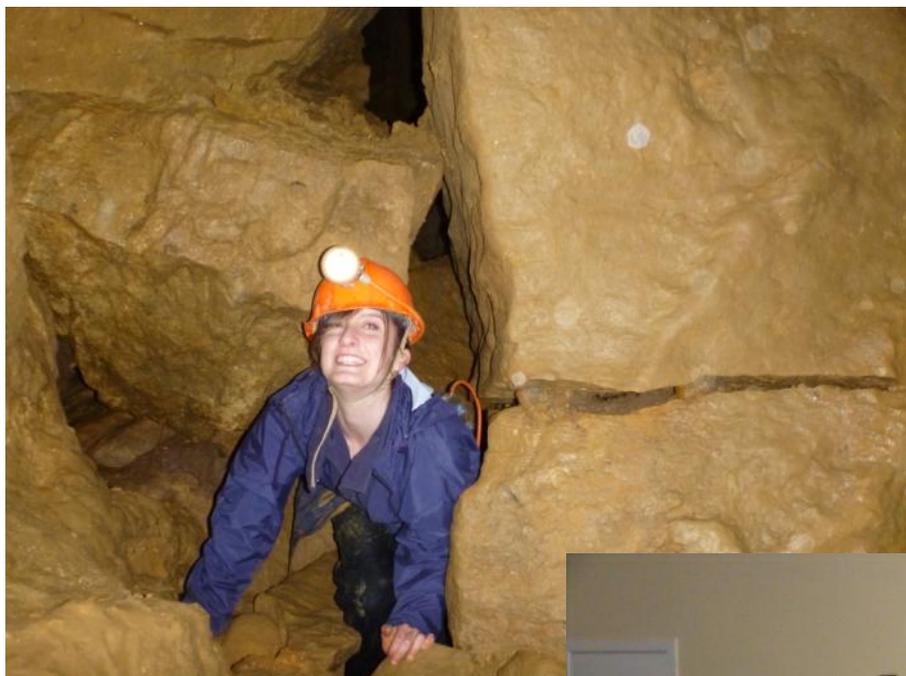
God sees the big picture. Whatever you may be going through at home, at school, with your friends, with family, however bad the rough patch, when you can't quite understand how everything could turn out alright, God is the way, the truth and the life. Even if you stray and do stupid things to try and cope with tough situations, God is always waiting with open arms for you to find your way back to Him. 'But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not be faint.' Isaiah 40:31. I learnt that if

I put my hope in Him, everything will be alright. My week at NYC was one of the most incredible faith-strengthening experiences I've ever had. For me, knowing that there are so many young people who are excited by God in NZ, is extremely encouraging. I became closer to other young Christians from all walks of life through activities such as caving, group games and small group study sessions. NYC is a great experience, worth going along for. - Chelsea Whitfield”

So if you missed out this year, or have a young person entering youth group next year, make sure you encourage them to make National Youth Camp a part of their year in 2012.

Photos (clockwise from top):

Chelsea Whitfield making her way through the caves; Manawatu Youth and Family Parish worker, Amy Brinkman, doing the Limbo; Pastor Chris Janetzki supervising the air rifles; Project Runway does newspaper outfits! The winner Sarah Kirtlan, modelling her dress; Everyone joined in dancing 'The Madison' and various other dances.



NEW SMP FOR WANGANUI

A wonderful celebration of Pastor Phil Husband's "Beautiful Feet" was shared on Sunday 7th August at the Harrison Street Community Church! Preaching on the Romans 10:15 theme "How beautiful are the feet of those who share the good news", President Robert Erickson both ordained and installed Phil Husband for the Specific Ministry role in Wanganui. The church was full, both with people and excitement, as the service took place. A very special Community Meal was shared after the 4pm service - a Hangi prepared by the Living Hope church community in celebration of the event.

Greetings were extended to special guests, including Pastor Max and Rosemary Stollznow (past Pastor), members of the Wellington, Hamilton, Marton, Palmerston North and Fielding Lutheran Churches, and other Wanganui churches. A special farewell was extended to President Robert Erickson, as this was Robert's final church service as President of the LCNZ. A greeting from the President of the LCA, Reverend Dr. Michael Semmler, was shared with the gathering, thanking Robert for his service to the LCNZ and praying blessings on his journey to QLD later this month, to begin the LCA Interim Ministry.

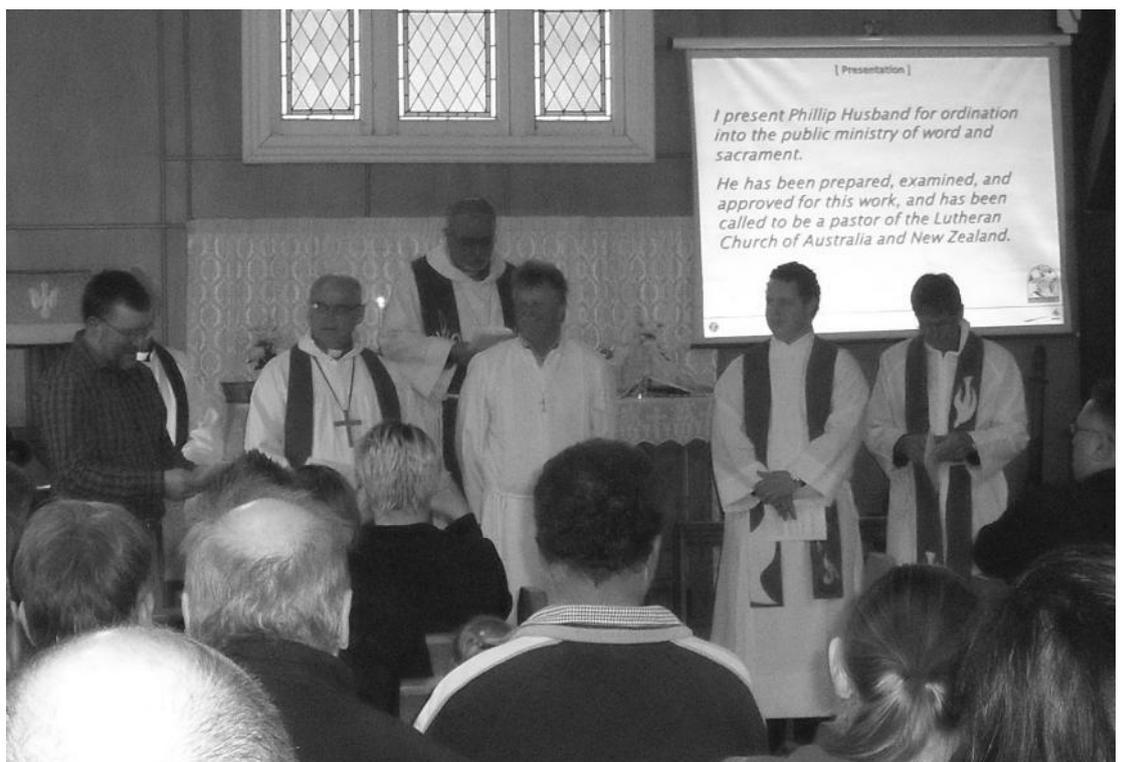
Robert shared with the community that Phil's inner call had been confirmed by the outer call from the Wanganui church. As Phil takes up this call, he may not have physically beautiful feet (a moment confirmed by the children as they watched Pastor Max Stollznow ceremonially wash Phil's feet in



preparation for ordination and installation), but he certainly does have metaphorically beautiful feet: ones that carry the gospel to his community. Robert encouraged us all to have beautiful feet, just like Phil; feet that carry the gospel. The challenge was put to everyone present to consider their own calling from God and what God is asking them to do - particularly who God wants them to be a messenger to.

After the ordination and installation, greetings were extended to Rev. Phil Husband from many people, including Rev. Mark Whitfield, President Elect of the LCNZ, St Martin's Congregation in Marton, David Preston on behalf of St. Pauls Lutheran Church, Wellington, The Reformed Church of Wanganui, who share the Harrison St Community Church building, Rev. Steen Olsen, Mission Director of the SA/NT District and past

President of the LCNZ, Rev. Milton Fritsch and the Mountainside Lutheran Church, Auckland and President Michael Semmler of the LCA.



LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

Lutherans For Life is a arm of our church that aims to:

- To promote respect and protection for human life, born and unborn, since God is its Creator
- To foster community responsibility for the defence of God's gift of human life, especially those whose life others would categorise as unwanted, lacking quality, worthless, or otherwise dispensable. Lutherans For Life co-operates with those persons and organisations who share its aims and values.

Lutherans for Life-New Zealand (LFL-NZ) has decided to support and co-operate with the Nathaniel Centre, which is the New Zealand Catholic Bioethics Centre. The Centre publishes a quarterly publication called: The Nathaniel Report. The latest issue-April 2011- has a number of very interesting and worthwhile articles, amongst others on:

- Bioethics and the paradox of the human condition by John Kleinsman, the director of the Centre;
- Prenatal diagnosis: stories of choice from mothers of children with Down syndrome by Dr Lisa Bridle
- A report on the euthanasia conference held on 8 April 2011

The Nathaniel Report is distributed widely, including secondary Catholic schools.

Our support will include:

- Finance; we have made a donation.
- Taking subs to the Nathaniel Report (\$50 for a year).
- Making available resource materials of Lutherans for Life on topics of mutual interest.
- Drafting articles for the Nathaniel Report.

In order to make this co-operation as fruitful as possible, I would like to invite readers of the Olive Tree to:

- Pray for the work of the Centre;
- Take a sub to the Nathaniel Report (just write to me at P.O. Box 12-294, Wellington 6144, so that I can submit an order for all Lutheran subs);
- Join LFL-NZ (the cost is \$25 for individuals and \$30 for a family for one year), so that we can keep making donations to the Nathaniel Centre. The address is the same as above. As a member you will also receive Life News.
- Make a financial donation to LFL-NZ, earmarked for the Nathaniel Centre.
- Submit draft articles via LFL-NZ.

Since issues of life and death have become increasingly complex in our secularised culture, it is important that as Christians we join hands and share our Biblically based views on these issues.

I recommend the above to your prayerful consideration and am looking forward to receiving your subs and donations.

Dr Petrus Simons
P.O. Box 12-294, Wellington 6144

L.L.L. REPORT

- Interest rate for Apex and E accounts **REMAINS** at 5%
- Grants were approved for Dr Steen Olsen to speak at the Monrad Celebrations, to Botany, Mountainside and Hamilton Lutheran churches.
- Remember the LLL funds as you plan for mission and ministry!!
- Project James for one off mission and ministry projects, Hetty Gudopp for long term mission and ministry projects, Lilian Schwarz fund for youth programmes/projects, and applying to LCNZ for church buildings' maintenance from the Hintz Fund.
- All correspondence for LLL to be sent to **P.O. Box 82, MARTON 4741**
- When you complete any project, could you please email a photo of same, which can be incorporated in the LLL Powerpoint presentation.

Kogodus Retreat IV
**Growing in
Discipleship**
16-18 September 2011
Foxton Bible Camp

For more information,
or to register, check out
the brochure under
'Looking Ahead' at
lutheran.org.nz

"Kogodus" is an Estonian word that means Christian fellowship. The retreat format provides an environment of encouragement in which you can ask and discuss questions, share what you have already learned and just simply grow in exercising your faith. The retreat begins with a meal together at 6:30pm on the Friday evening and concludes with lunch on Sunday. In between there is a mixture of teaching, prayer, good food, laughter, opportunity for a walk, fun, and fellowship.

TRAINING TODAY'S YOUNG LEADERS FOR TOMORROW

On the weekend of the 20th to 22nd of May, 23 young leaders gathered together in Wellington to grow more in their leadership capacity. Staying at Downtown Backpackers allowed the young leaders to enjoy relaxing together in the small amounts of free time.

The aims of the retreat were to prepare young leaders to be able to lead small groups in bible study more confidently, equip the leaders to grow in their awareness of policies of the LCNZ that effect children's and youth ministry, and grow the young leaders in their self awareness of their leadership skills and abilities. The long term benefit of the training is that the LCNZ will have confident, competent leaders coming up through the ranks to continue to aid the church to follow God's mission and ministry in New Zealand.



Above: Training to be small group leaders
Below: Worshipping at St Paul's

These young leaders came from Auckland, Palmerston North and Wellington. The retreat sessions were facilitated by Pastor Lee and Anna Kroehn, Amy Brinkman and Pauline Simonsen. So as not to go hungry, Terence Brinkman ably provided a generous amount of food.

Over the weekend, the young leaders grew in their awareness of their spiritual gifts and their own leadership abilities. They challenged themselves to get to know the ChildSafe management system and the requirements for running youth group games. Using the upcoming National Youth Camp bible study material, the young leaders applied small group leading techniques. Pastor Lee led the group in the Safe Place policy training session, which is a requirement of the LCNZ for all leaders.



Saturday night afforded some relaxation time, as the group went to Fisherman's Table for dinner. President Rob and Betsy Erickson graced the group with their presence and allowed our young leaders to spend some time with the then current President of the LCNZ. On Sunday morning the group attended worship at St Paul's, Wellington. President Rob led worship and gave a relevant sermon on Jesus being the way to the Father.

The LCA's Board for Youth and Family Ministry provided \$AU 3000 to provide this training. In addition, the Lilian Schwarz Fund, which is managed by the LLL NZ,

provided \$1500 to ensure that the training was provided at no expense to the young leaders. We thank these two groups for their generous support.

Some comments young people made about the retreat: 'I really enjoyed the retreat because I got to learn how to step up and be a leader. It also connected me more with God.'

'I liked that I was taught how to deal with challenging behaviour in small groups.'

'We discussed issues/topics as a group that we were not usually talked about or confronted. This was helpful and also reminded us of the fact that anything could happen at anytime, and us as leaders need to always be aware, prepared, and one step ahead of our game.'

We continue to pray that God would empower and grow these young leaders as they volunteer in our churches now and into the future.

GOD IS NO FASCIST

David W. T. Brattston

A response to the article 'How Can a Loving God Allow People to Suffer?' by Brent Samsom

God allows suffering for the same reason that the United States government allows the Mafia, the Russian Mob, and other criminal activities. Although both divine and secular authorities value and promote the welfare of all people under their care, they value the rights and freedoms of their populations even more.

Both the secular police and heavenly angels are severely hampered in their prevention of wrongdoing by rules and restrictions their superiors have imposed on them, in the first case by the United States Constitution, in the second by God's permitting all His creatures to act autonomously, even Satan. Crime and violence against innocent victims would be dramatically reduced if the Bill of Rights were repealed. Without its requirements for search warrants, protections against unreasonable searches, and prohibitions on unauthorized wiretaps, American police could uncover many secret criminal conspiracies, obtain additional vital evidence, and thus reduce injury to the innocent public. In the same way, God so highly values human freewill that He curbs angels from intervening in human life in a manner that would violate it.

The Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects a defendant from being forced to confess in court, or

even be a witness if s/he does not want to. American law even provides that police inform an arrestee of their right to remain silent and to retain a lawyer. These rights forestall many confessions, and thus allow guilty persons to evade conviction and prey on future victims. These drawbacks to public safety remain in place because, like God, the Constitution and courts value the liberty and autonomy of the specific individual in front of them to the physical well-being of everyone else in the nation. It is theoretically feasible to repeal the relevant sections of The Bill of Rights, but the Federal and state governments would never do so, because personal freedom and protection of the rights of the accused are prized as supreme over the security and welfare of other Americans. The right to reasonable bail, and against hasty arrest and jailing, allows criminals to continue their illegal careers, just as God's respect for everyone's freedom of action allows sin to continue against hapless persons and property.

The only regime to successfully stop the Mafia was Mussolini's Italy. It accomplished this by abolishing rights to life, liberty, security of the person, against self-incrimination, etc. America is barred from repeating the Fascists' success by its commitment to these rights. In the same way, God allows the Devil and other sinners a free hand because He opts for the freewill of each individual in preference to the material and bodily security of others.

God does not cause evil. God could stop all harm to humans if He did not prize the liberty of all His creatures. It is Satan and his demons that cause earthquakes, tsunamis, famines, floods, and epidemics. They and ill-intentioned humans, not God, perpetrate murders, robberies, family breakdowns, and other misfortunes. Like we should, God permits them free rein, until making things right at the Last Judgment. It is a case of permitting the freedom of all at the expense of the well-being of fewer than all.

Although they do not provide the greatest good, the hands-off policies of God and the American legal system provide benefit and liberty to the greatest number. Their esteem for individual freedom provides guarantees for every single individual, the sum total of the population. Fewer than the entire population suffer from crimes. Because God loves every single one of us, He permits freewill to sinners rather than curb it for the earthly benefit of a lesser number, just like United States governments. ■

David W. T. Brattston
Post Office Box 1599
Lunenburg, Nova Scotia
Canada, B0J 2C0
Telephone: (902) 634-8473
E-mail: dwtbrattston@hotmail.com

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

contribute prayer points: mollets@inspire.net.nz

- As we remember all the good things that God has done for us, may we praise God and give him thanks. Ask that God would continue to give us thankful hearts.
- Give thanks that in our country we can openly worship and praise our God.
- Give thanks to God that He sent Jesus to save all people of every nation from their sin. Ask that the Holy Spirit would give us the courage to share this message with others.
- Ask that God would give wisdom and guidance to our national leaders as they support the mission and ministry of the church.
- Please pray for Phil Husband who was recently ordained as a Specific Ministry Pastor in Wanganui. Ask that God would pour out his Holy Spirit on Phil to enable him to lead God's people.
- Please remember Pastor Milton Fritsch as he considers a call to Ipswich.
- Please pray for Wayne and Jaswanth as they study at ALC.
- Please pray for the people affected by drought in Eastern Africa. Ask that aid would reach those in desperate need.
- Please pray God's guidance and strength for Adrian Stolk & Katharina Boerzik our Twenty/20 participants and God's blessing on their upcoming presentations.
- Please pray for the upcoming Kogodus "Growing In Discipleship" for those leading and the participants. Holy Spirit Come!

Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be.
My Father will honour the one who serves me - John 12:26



Warrambui INTERNSHIPS 2012



WARRAMBU I

Warrambui is a unique Lutheran retreat and conference centre near Canberra. Warrambui's mission is to serve; to impact the lives of people through the power of the Holy Spirit by being a loving, vibrant and growing community with a heart for Jesus. The Warrambui Internship Program is all about creating a movement of young people who are committed to following Jesus and serving him with their whole lives!

Internships are offered each year for 12 months for up to six young people to come and serve, grow and be discipled. Interns help in the operation of Warrambui and are involved in food preparation, teaching programs to school children, general maintenance, and serving the needs of 5000+ customers throughout the year. Interns are given opportunities for spiritual and personal development led by an Intern Coordinator and Warrambui senior staff.

SO... If you're aged **18-24**, and want to know more, contact **Dallan Lieschke (Intern Coordinator)** for an information pack:
Phone: (02) 6220 1000, Fax: (02) 6220 1001, or Email: internship@warrambui.com.au
Applications close Friday 30th September 2011.