



2017 Christian Life Week Camp 'Orange' — Under Construction



This year's theme was 'Under Construction' taking place at Tandara Lutheran Camp, Halls Gap. Campers had the opportunity to learn about their God-given gifts and talents, and how He wants us to use them to continue the ongoing construction of His creation.

This was done in a series of small group sessions, short skits, worships, and messages from Pastor Jaswanth - our resident Camp Pastor for the week.

One of the unique activities on camp is the opportunity to actively serve the Halls Gap community. Campers and leaders joined together, tending to the local botanical gardens, helping with maintenance around the Tandara camp site, and serving a local woman with a disability - just to name a few activities! Giving us the opportunity to show God's love through the act of freely serving turned out to be surprisingly rewarding.

Regrettably, all good things must come to an end, and on Friday many teary farewells were had, but joy was felt over the many memories gained. The amazing bonds and friendships formed over every CLW were once again evident here. CLW Orange really was a God-blessed week. God worked in every camper as they learned about Him in their studies, as they made friends, served others, and with the having of FUN! It was awesome seeing the camp bond, and grow, and share in God's love. And it was amazing to have the opportunity to be amongst it in the first place. Praise God!

*Words and pictures provided by
Camp Leader, Hayley Simons*



From our Bishop

Rekindling

I don't care much for horse racing. I didn't watch the Melbourne Cup, except for the snippets I saw on the evening news. If you ask me which horse won, I am usually unlikely to be able to give you its name. But this year it's a little different because of association I made with the name while reflecting on the gospel reading from Matthew 25:1-13. Basically, its message is about the importance of 'rekindling' - not the racehorse but our faith.



Jesus' parable of the five wise and five foolish attendants of the bride at a wedding highlights the necessity of rekindling our faith-fires in light of Christ's impending return. Like all ten of those attendants, we have received, in baptism, the fire of faith that burns like a lamp in our hearts. In that same faith we await the coming of our bridegroom so that with his bride, the church, we may enter into the eternal dwelling with him. We have the oil of God's grace, readily and plentifully available – in the daily grace of our baptism, in his enduring Word and his Holy Supper – by which the Holy Spirit offers to rekindle our faith-fires daily.

The challenge for us is to be wise and not foolish, by making regular use of God's precious means of grace so that his Spirit may keep on 'rekindling' faith in our hearts, so that we are ready to receive our heavenly bridegroom when he returns.

Reformation 500

That, of course, is the ongoing message of the Reformation whose 500th anniversary we have just celebrated in various ways across our District and in the LCA. The challenge of the Reformation is that we keep on allowing the Holy Spirit to reform, reshape and rekindle us by his Word.

Thank you to pastors, people in congregations, schools and zones right across the District who made a special effort to reflect on the Reformation 500 theme in special services around the Reformation and studies throughout the year. There were many events on October 28th in Melbourne CBD. These included an afternoon choirs' concert and reformation hymn singing in St. Paul's Cathedral, which the Holy Trinity German congregation played a major role in organizing and which included choirs from many ethnic communities including the Hermannsburg choir from central Australia and a local African choir.

That was followed by a joint Lutheran Catholic commemoration event with cantata in St. John's Southgate, celebrating the progress that has been made in dialogue between the churches in recent decades.



On October 31st LCA bishops participated in the 'Together in Hope' Reformation event in Adelaide which included presentations on Reformation history, the history of Lutherans and Catholics in Australia, a history of the Lutheran-Catholic dialogue in Australia, the signing of a joint statement reflecting the progress of dialogue, the planting of a commemorative tree, and many other activities including the screening of the Luther movie.

(At left LCA Bishops and representatives from the Catholic Churches process into the service)

LCA Involvements

In the past month I (and other representatives of our district) have participated in an LCA Aged and Community Services Governance Dialogue Project on "Discerning our Future"; in ALC graduate interviews and assignments, College of Bishops and General Church Council meetings.

Recently I have had the privilege of visiting with much of the District through the CTICR ordination consultations. It has been educational and stimulating to engage with so many in our District. The consultations are now complete. CTICR has compiled the feedback and is moving to the next phase of preparing the concise draft doctrinal statement that synod requested for consideration at General Pastors' Conference in 2018.

In the Victorian Tasmanian District

Vacancy and Calls have required some of my attention. With seven vacancies in the District I have chaired six call meetings and attended many Call committee meetings by phone or in person. I am ably assisted with the Call process by the District Call Committee of Frank Lehmann, Dave Nordbrock and John W Huf.

We can rejoice at the installation of Pr Phil Haar on a part time Call to Moorabbin Dandenong and the upcoming installation of Pr Milton Fritsch to Geelong, a parish that will have been in Vacancy for close to three years by time Pr Fritsch arrives.

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In the Victorian Tasmanian District (continued)

We have had much to celebrate in this year of 50/500. I have been able to attend some Congregational events and preached at a service attended by members of eleven congregations and five schools at Luther College, Croydon

Recently I also played a role in the installation of several deaconesses and an Elder in our African communities at a multi congregational event hosted by the Holy Trinity Dandenong congregation (*pictured right*).



I have also visited under the pleasant circumstance of regularising pastor calls, most recently with Pastor Jaswanth of Wodonga Parish.

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Recent Social Questions

Many thanks for your prayers for God's guidance in the recent Australian Marriage Law Survey and the presentation of the Victorian Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill in state parliament. As we await the outcomes or anticipate the consequences of these proposed changes, please continue to pray for God's guidance on our political leaders as they consider issues of such importance and continue to support individuals for whom these matters are very real in their own or their family's lives.

Yours in Christ

Bishop Lester Priebbenow +

Vacancies and Calls

The following parishes are in Vacancy:

Box Hill, Senior Pastor

Croydon, Luther College, School Pastor (team pastorate)

Vacancy and Calls (continued)

Dimboola Natimuk, Parish Sole Pastor—call to Pr Joel Pukallus

Nhill Jeparit, Parish Sole Pastor

North Geelong, Parish Sole Pastor—call to Pr Boyd Briese

Wodonga, Victory Lutheran College, School Pastor

Accepted

Pr Stan Rudowski to Portland Heywood

Declined

Pr Brentan Altmann to Wodonga Victory Lutheran College

Pr Finn Klein to Nhill Jeparit Parish

Installations

Pr Milton Fritsch to St John's Lutheran Church Geelong 26 November 2017

SENT Evangelism Conference : Adelaide



Recently I attended the SENT Evangelism Conference in Adelaide, a two day event attended by around 130 people, at Hahndorf.

Along with presentations by several speakers including the Vic District's own Nathan and Yvette Heit (Pakenham church plant) participants shared together in round table discussions.

During discussion I realized I had previously thought that to evangelize I should have completed a set journey or reached a significant point on the way; qualifying me as expert on God in some designated scenario. SENT challenged me to think about sharing as I am, where I am at with others – where they are at *in the journey* – sharing '**God with us**' – not 'how God was with me when... '.

Participants discussed stretching our 'safe' walls out; exploring where and how we meet and share God; how God is there in vulnerability, incompleteness, and in creativity. We thought about how worship can be infused with transformative symbolism that is not restricted to designated worship spaces, times or familiar symbols. Not mission as event based evangelism; but Mission as life and journey – intentionally sharing and expressing 'God with us' - Going and growing. This was a really worthwhile conference.

Erin Grainger.

For more about SENT and other Board for Local Mission projects see the LCA website <http://www.lca.org.au/departments/local-mission/new-and-renewing-churches/>



More photos and the full article on the Western Zone celebrations will be available on the LCA Vic Tas district **facebook** and website.

The congregations of the Western zone combined in a program over the Reformation weekend, enjoying a presentation from Pr Mike Semmeler, a local historic tour on Saturday morning, and on Saturday evening the choir and orchestra performing Ken Stott's choral cantata, 'The Day has Ended'. On Sunday morning over 500 attended St Michael's Tarrington. Worship included a mass choir, handbells, Living Sounds Band, pipe organ and brass accompaniment. (pictures above, below and right)



Nailing it at Pakenham Lakeside College at the College Reformation service (left and below)



The Reformation service at Luther College Croydon combined dancing, a children's talk, choirs, banners, and the performance of a specially commissioned cantata for the occasion.

Below, and right, photos of the East Metro congregational and school event



After worship a display was given by the Freestyle Dance ministry team after morning tea.



If you would like to share your 50/500 event please email Kate your photos and articles for publishing on the LCA Vic Tas district **facebook** and website. (Details last page)

Important dates 2017/18

Date	Event	Venue
24 Nov	Taize Service a Soul Nurture Network event	Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Knox
26 Nov	Installation of Pr Milton Fritsch	St John's Lutheran Church Geelong
15 Nov	Deadline for registering delegates to General Synod 2018 in LAMP	
26 Dec '17 to 10 Jan '18	District Office closure over Christmas New Year	District Office closure over Christmas — New Year
17 Feb	Empower Annual Youth Leadership training day	Good News Lutheran College, Tarneit
29 March 02 April	Easter Camp a camp for Youth and Young Adults 16+	Araluen Lutheran Camp Anglesea
16 April	District Pastors Conference	Holy Cross Centre Templestowe
17-19 April	Continuing Education for Pastors and Layworkers	Holy Cross Centre Templestowe
For more information on these events please go to the District website—Coming Events vic.lca.org.au/news-and-events/coming-events		

Farewell Paul Weinert Executive director Lutheran Education, Vic, NSW & Tas



From left: Julian Denholm, Tammy Hughes, Will Neil, Paul Weinert, Graeme Huf, John Graetz, Josie Muratore from LEVNT

On Friday 20 October we bid farewell to Lutheran Education Executive Director, Paul Weinert. Paul has managed Lutheran Education Vic, NSW & Tas (LEVNT) with for five years with a true servant heart. Paul will remain in the education arena, taking on the role of Principal at Concordia College, Adelaide. Paul will be much missed.

Julian Denholm is acting Executive Director for the remainder of 2017, ahead of his permanent appointment from 01 January 2018.

Lutheran Church of Australia VIC/TAS

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