

## Important Dates

Date	Event	Venue
30 Nov - 01 December	Laternenfest	Tarrington Lutheran School
01 December	St James Christmas Market	St James Lutheran Church, Moorabbin
01 December	Springvale German Lutheran Market	St John's German Lutheran Church, Springvale
02 December	Farewell of Tandara Interns	Tandara Lutheran Camp Halls Gap
02 December	Farewell of Rev Matt Anker	St Paul's Lutheran Church, Shepparton
08 December	St Paul's Christmas Market	St Paul's Lutheran Church, Box Hill
09 December	SNAS Beach Day	South Melbourne Beach
<b>24 December 2018 — 03 January 2019 District Office Closed</b>		
02-16 January 2019	Summer Camp	Araluen Lutheran Camp Anglesea
13 January 2019	First SNAS 2019	St John's Lutheran Church Southgate
<b>18 January 2019</b>	<b>Registrations for District Convention of Synod Close</b>	
27 January 2019	Installation of Rev Lucas Matuschka	Rainbow Parish
03 February 2019	Installation of Rev Neville Otto	St Paul's Lutheran Church, Box Hill
13-15 Feb 2019	District Pastors' Conference	TBC
15-17 Feb 2019	District Convention of Synod	The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamilton
23 February 2019	Empower	Good News Lutheran College Tarneit
01 - 02 March 2019	Cross Cultural Ministry Conference	Quality Hotel, Melbourne Airport
07-09 May 2019	Continuing Education for Pastors and Layworkers	Holy Cross Centre Templestowe
For more information on these events please go to the District website <b><a href="http://vic.lca.org.au/news-and-events/coming-events">vic.lca.org.au/news-and-events/coming-events</a></b>		

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## District Voices

News from the Vic/Tas District December 2018



### District Convention of Synod - Treasure in Jars of Clay



**15 to 17 February 2019**

**Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd  
12 Thompson St  
Hamilton VIC**

*6 For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.*

*7 We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing great treasure.*

*(2 Corinthians 4: 6-7 NLT)*

District Convention of Synod is a time of celebrating the stories of our congregations, receiving reports from our District and National bodies, and attending to Synodical business.

#### **Important Dates**

- \* Proposals due date **extended** to 28 November 2018
- \* Nominations to District Standing Committees open shortly
- \* Delegates elected and registered no later than 18 January 2019

For more information go the District Convention of Synod website  
<https://lca-vic-tas-synod-2019.weebly.com/>

## From Rev Lester Priebbenow, District Bishop

### Forgiven! Hebrews 10:11-25



I read about a person who requested only one word be put on her gravestone: *Forgiven!*

How could she be so sure? How do you know if you are forgiven?

I have asked that question of many confirmation students over time and the most common answer is: "Because I ask God to forgive me." But is it our asking that brings us forgiveness?

Others might say, "I feel forgiven" or "I don't feel forgiven," but how can they know if their feelings are correct? Sometimes shame makes us doubt that we can be forgiven, or pride makes us wonder whether we *need to be*.

Hebrews 10 tells us how we can know that all our sins - past, present and future - are forgiven. We can know it when we trust that, **'by one sacrifice (Christ) has made perfect forever those who are being made holy'** (v.14). Forgiveness does not depend on our asking, our doing, or our feeling but on that once-and-for-all sacrifice of Jesus.

How can we be so sure? Hebrews 10 tells us that **the Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this** (v. 15). He takes us back to the sacrifice of Christ and to the promise of Scripture, which says, **'Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more'** (v. 17; Jer 31:34). He hammers home the truth that **'where these have been forgiven there is no longer any sacrifice** (required) **for sin'** (v. 18).

So why bother to pray for forgiveness? A spiritual song answers this question well by saying, *"We are forgiven, so we say sorry..."* (AT 327). Our prayers do not earn or attain forgiveness, but are our grateful response to that good news that we are already forgiven by the once-and-for-all-time sacrifice of Jesus.

Hebrews 10 simply invites us, **'Therefore... let us draw near to God in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water'** (v. 19-22). That is why we pray for forgiveness – because we can know, by baptism and faith, that Christ has already cleansed us from all sin and guilt.

The writer to the Hebrews invites us to hang onto that hope and to keep on sharing it with one another, so that we may be ready for the day when we shall see our Saviour face-to-face (v. 24-25).

Until then, what better word could sum up our lives as children on God in Christ but the simple word, *"Forgiven!"*

Bishop Lester Priebbenow †

## News of the District

### Calls Accepted

Pr Lucas Matuschka to Rainbow Parish (installation 27 January 2019)

Pr Neville Otto to St Paul's Box Hill (installation 03 February 2019)

Pr Matthias Prenzler to Goulburn Murray Parish

### Calls Extended

Pr David Wear to Barossa North Parish SA

Pr David Wear to Freeling Kapunda Parish SA

### Appointments

Pr Chris Raatz and Pr Ernie Kiss (em) as Spiritual Advisors to Lutheran Women of Australia

Pr Levi Graham (Dimboola Natimuk Parish) as Spiritual Advisor to Lutheran Men of Victoria

Pr Mat Ker (Warrnambool Parish) as Interim District Assistant Bishop

Pr Milton Fritsch (Geelong Parish) Interim Pastor Member to District Church Council

Pr Howard Beard (Bendigo Parish) as Interim Zone Counsellor North East Zone

Mr Robert Lehman and Rev Denis Grosser to the District Call Committee for the Wimmera Zone

### Changes in Lutheran Education Victoria New South Wales and Tasmania

Graeme Huf, Business Manager for LEVNT is leaving LEVNT to serve with LLL more closely. Lester Kerber previously of Luther College is the incoming Business Manager commencing shortly.

Interim Director Leadership and School Improvement, Ian Marks will complete his interim term at the end of the year. Roger Ashcroft previously from Yirara College (NT) will commence in 2019 in the role.

William Neil, Business Services Officer for LEVNT has resigned and recruitment for this role has commenced.

We thank Graeme, Ian and Will for their dedicated and energetic service to the schools of the LEVNT area. We pray all the best to these men as they move onto other roles. We also pray for Lester and Roger as they commence serving these very important communities in our District and Southern New South Wales

### Congregational Closure

The Estonian Lutheran Congregation has their final service on Christmas Eve 2018 as they close their congregation. We thank God for the faithful members and pray they remain connected as their church closes.