

J U N E 2 0 2 3

SAINTS *salive*

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIAN LUTHERAN COLLEGE



FUTURE *church*

FUTURE *focus*

FUTURE *learning*

Forgetting what lies behind ...
I press on towards the prize of the
heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 3:13,14

A|L|C

CHANGE NECESSARY *to safeguard* FUTURE



Pastor James Winderlich
PRINCIPAL

Our cover: Future church, future focus, future learning' is the theme for ALC's 2023 annual appeal.

Cover photo: Amy Dahlenburg

SAINTSalive
*a periodical of
Australian Lutheran College*

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A|L|C

Australian Lutheran College is the provider of tertiary theological education for the Lutheran Church of Australia and is a college of the University of Divinity.



When Immanuel College and Immanuel Seminary opened its doors for classes in February 1923 at 104 Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide, there were just 27 students enrolled, including eight seminary students and two females. Despite the low student numbers at the time, those behind the purchase of this expansive facility must have had a vision for the future which included growth in enrolments.

In 2023, ALC is still operating from the same expansive site, despite much of it being once again underutilised. Just 10 of the 58 students currently enrolled in ALC's higher education program attend classes on campus, while the remainder of the student body attends classes online. Despite challenges over recent years, including declining student numbers, reduced sources of income and increasing costs, ALC is very much focused on the future – a future that remains centred in Christ and which also includes growth in enrolments.

Our Strategic Direction: *Towards 2028* outlines the college's guiding principles for moving forward (www.alc.edu.au/about/strategic-direction).

To demonstrate good stewardship of the resources that have been gifted to it by the church, and to ensure its ongoing viability, the college has, over the past six months put in place the following cost-saving measures:

- engaged a number of new skilled practitioners as casual academics to teach as needed;
 - initiated resource-sharing arrangements with two other University of Divinity colleges based in Adelaide;
 - progressed the implementation of a cost-recovery accounting model;
 - closed the North Adelaide campus on Mondays to reduce running costs;
 - entered into discussions with the LCA regarding relocating to fit-for-purpose premises that are cheaper to maintain (approximately \$400,000 is budgeted annually to cover costs associated with running the North Adelaide site).
- To demonstrate its optimism for the future, the college has been proactive in its development of two new contemporary study options which focus on practice and practical outcomes for ministry – a Diploma in Ministry and a new Professional Practice Doctorate.
- It has also been busy redesigning its fieldwork program to align with ALC's learning model, which sees students across all programs of study – including the pastoral program, completing their studies in their local setting.
- During these uncertain and challenging times, I hope that you are encouraged by the decisive steps the college is taking – steps that underline our commitment to continue training people for service. God willing, ALC will continue to serve the church in this way for many more years to come.

ALC is very much
focused on the
future – a future
centred in Christ.

Who's teaching at

ALC

IN 2023

Permanent teaching staff



Ms Emma Graetz

Applied Learning,
Director of VET/ALC
Training



Rev Richard Haar

Systematic Theology



Rev Dr Stephen Haar

Biblical Theology,
Vice Principal



Rev Dr Stephen Hultgren

Biblical Studies



Dr Anna Nuernberger

Biblical Studies,
Director of Research
& Editor of *L TJ*



Rev Dr Andrew Pfeiffer

Pastoral Theology



Rev Tom Pietsch

Church History
(on 12 months
study leave)



Dr Merryn Ruwoldt

Education,
Academic Dean



Rev James Winderlich

Applied Learning,
Principal

Casual academics



Dr Kerrin Huth



Rev Andrew Jaensch



Rev Dr Peter Lockwood



Rev Dr Dan Mueller



Dr Tania Nelson



Dr Meg Noack



Rev Dr Tim Stringer



Ms Sue Westthorp



ALC has launched two new contemporary study options which focus on practice and practical outcomes for ministry. These programs cater for students at both the beginning and the advanced stages of their journeys in theological education.

NEW PRACTICAL PROGRAMS LAUNCHED

Diploma in Ministry

The **Diploma in Ministry** is a vibrant, relational, practical course taught by skilled practitioners. It is suitable for ministry personnel, including chaplains and lay workers and/or those wishing to enhance their practical ministry skills.

The **Diploma in Ministry** can be an end in itself or the first step towards a **Bachelor of Ministry** or a **Bachelor of Theology** and is also a potential pathway for those seeking to be ordained. It has an emphasis on people living in relationship with God and each other.

But why add a **Diploma in Ministry** when ALC already has a **Diploma in Theology** with small student numbers? It is all about the starting point.

There are two broad ways to approach theological education. One is to start with the building blocks, for example, biblical studies, systematic theology and pastoral theology, and move towards application to ministry contexts.

The **Diploma in Theology** is largely conceptualised this way and there is nothing wrong with that.

Alternatively, students can start with the questions arising from the ministry contexts and explore them by delving back into the building blocks.

The **Diploma in Ministry** uses this approach. The early emphasis on practice and its contemporary context is

evident even in the titles of the compulsory core units, which are:

- The Practice of Christian Ministry
- Introduction to Christian Spirituality and Discipleship
- Introduction to Christian Mission.

These units, along with a compulsory unit in New Testament and various elective options including:

- Christian Care 1 & 2
- Skills for Practical Ministry
- Introduction to Teaching for Ministry
- Reflective Practice for Vocation
- Chaplaincy: Spiritual Care in Public Places

create an accessible new course that encourages deep reflection on relationships and ministry.

Scholarships are available.

ONLINE INFORMATION SESSIONS AVAILABLE

Diploma in Ministry

Thursday 15 June 2023, 2.00pm

Tuesday 20 June 2023, 6.00pm

To register for a session, email enquiries@alc.edu.au and a Zoom link will be provided.

Doctor of Professional Practice

From 2024, ALC, in conjunction with the School of Graduate Research at the University of Divinity, will be accepting enrolments into a new professional doctorate. Not every practitioner wants to spend multiple years completing a PhD. The beauty of this professional doctoral program is that it is designed for practitioners who wish to engage in a deep, extended study of some element or question of professional practice.

The skills of reflective practice and research are explicitly taught in the coursework components of the award after which candidates engage in an extended thesis or project which focuses on some elements of professional practice.

This doctorate has been designed with two cohorts in mind – professionals engaged directly in ministry or working in Christian environments and Christians seeking to live out their professional calling in non-Christian environments.

ALC is seeking expressions of interest in this award from potential candidates.

Pastors, teachers, lay workers and Christians working in health, counselling, social science or any profession which benefits from theologically aware and informed practitioners are welcome to email enquiries@alc.edu.au about this award.



DISCOVER

what service looks like for you

**DISCOVER
INFORMATION
SESSIONS**

**Tuesday 20 June,
12.30pm**

**Monday 26 June,
5.00pm**

To register for a session, email enquiries@alc.edu.au and a Zoom link will be provided.

Discover is a program designed to assist people to discern what their service in the church might look like through a personal and supported journey of action and reflection.

Participants enrol in a higher education qualification, which they complete while also engaging in a formational experience within their local context. Throughout this discernment period, they are supported by ALC staff and local ministry supervisors and mentors and complete a reflection portfolio.

Formal qualifications that align with *Discover* include the Diploma in Theology or the Diploma in Ministry. Alternatively, *Discover* can also be completed at a post-graduate level.



**Academic
scholarships
available**

Scholarships are available for students entering the Diploma in Ministry and Diploma in Theology awards at ALC in Semester 2, 2023.

These are open to prospective students who are not currently enrolled in a program at ALC.

Email expressions of interest to enquiries@alc.edu.au no later than 10 July. Enrolments close for Semester 2 on 21 July. Students considering other programs of study at ALC are also welcome to enquire about scholarships. Terms and Conditions apply.

OUR LEARNING COMMUNITY

... in their own words

Get to know some of our students from right across the LCA, who are being equipped to serve in a range of different ministry capacities through their studies at ALC. In their own words, they share some of their hopes for the future and how their time in the college community is changing their lives.



I spent most of my childhood and youth years belonging to Rockingham Mandurah Lutheran Church, Western Australia, on campus at Living Waters Lutheran College where I did my schooling. It was here, in Perth's outer southern suburbs, after high school that I led the youth and young adult ministries, at first in a volunteer capacity and then as a part-time lay worker. I also worked at a surf shop during these years, as well as studying.

In 2020, I accepted a call as our congregation's Mission Facilitator & Church Planter and in October 2021, my wife Becca and I, together with a small team, were commissioned to plant Everhope Church in Perth's southernmost coastal suburbs.

There hasn't been a year since high school that I haven't studied Christian leadership or theology in some formal way. Having had leadership positions throughout high school, I applied for Business Management at university but felt no peace when I received the offer.

A 'chance' conversation with a friend-of-a-friend prompted me to take a 'gap year', studying Christian

leadership at a local Pentecostal Bible college. This Diploma in Christian Leadership set my heart on vocational ministry and gave me an appetite to study theology in a more rigorous environment, so I enrolled in a Bachelor of Ministry (Pastoral) at Perth Bible College. It was at this interdenominational college that I became very comfortable in my Lutheran identity for the first time, experiencing firsthand how well Lutheran theology stacks up against other doctrinal traditions.

After these five years of study, the timing was right. COVID had prompted ALC to increase its ability to stream classes online and I was excited to begin my Masters with the college, with a particular interest in missiology and the role of the sacraments.

As a student situated in WA, I'm joining classes via video feed and have found ALC's learning environment to be both welcoming and inclusive. It's been a great privilege to explore the depths of Lutheran theology, all the while being able to implement it in my local setting.

The research paper I'm working on as part of my Master of Theology reflects where my interests have been guided. I love our Lutheran theology and I'm fascinated by our understanding of ordination and the centrality of the sacraments in the work of mission. Earlier this year, I travelled to the USA to learn about the dynamic planting of churches in decentralised networks, expressed in groups we've come to know as missional communities or micro-churches. Now I hope to bring Lutheran ecclesiology to bear on these missional movements, considering if and how these innovative models can propel a dynamic movement of Lutheran micro-churches to reach a post-Christian Australia.

Alongside my studies, I'm enrolled in the LCA's Specific Ministry Pastor program, and our little growing church hopes to see me ordained in the near future.

I am thoroughly enjoying getting a *deeper* look and understanding into the Bible and the Lutheran *faith*.

– Lisa Burgemeister



Lisa Burgemeister

I grew up in the Barossa Valley in South Australia within a Lutheran family, and so consider myself to have been a Lutheran my whole life. It was here that I attended St Petri Lutheran Church in Nuriootpa and completed my schooling at Nuriootpa primary and high schools.

In my early 20s, I moved to Melbourne to look for work and joined St Philips Lutheran Church in Werribee. The congregation has since moved to Tarneit on the site of Good News Lutheran College and is now known as the St Philips site of the Wyndham and Hobsons Bay Lutheran Church. My employment has mostly encompassed administration and finance work.

Throughout my life, I have lived with a congenital heart condition, and it was during one of my many stays in hospital that the thought of becoming a pastoral carer, visiting patients in hospitals, came to mind. I decided to pursue this calling last year and commenced a Clinical Pastoral Education course at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. During this course, I realised that to become a fully qualified pastoral carer, I would also need to complete a degree in theology or counselling studies. This prompted me to enrol in a Diploma in Theology at ALC, which I have since transferred to a Bachelor of Ministry.

Getting the old brain back into study has been a challenge! But I am thoroughly enjoying getting a deeper look and understanding of the Bible and the Lutheran faith. I have recently taken up a position as the LCA Victorian District's Hospital Chaplain and look forward to using my learnings within my new role.



Mark Tung

I serve as a Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) at Botany Lutheran Church in Flat Bush, Auckland, New Zealand. The congregation here consists mainly of Chinese-language immigrants from all over Asia. I also run a wine export company.

My role as an SMP is what led me to seek out training through ALC. I have been enrolled in a Diploma in Theology since July 2022 and hope to complete these initial studies by the end of the year.

The distance learning is great – it is very helpful for me to juggle studying while looking after my three children and business. Through my studies, I hope to equip myself with more knowledge and experience so that I can better serve my congregation.



Jade Liebelt

Lyndoch in South Australia's Barossa Valley is my hometown, and I am a member of the Lutheran congregation there. Following completion of high school in 2022, I moved to Halls Gap in Victoria to take up a traineeship at Tandara Lutheran Camp.

As part of my traineeship, Tandara is providing me with the opportunity to do some theological study at ALC. I am enrolled in the Undergraduate Certificate in Divinity and this semester I am studying the Introduction to Christian Mission unit, which is offered completely online.

I am finding my study both enjoyable and informative and, at the end of it, I hope to have gained a greater understanding of the Bible and learnt how to share my Christian beliefs with others in conversation.

LEARNING *put into practice*

For those studying for the pastoral ministry, vicarage is a time to put all they have learnt into practice in a supervised ministry context. Starting in December and finishing in June, vicarage placements encompass the main celebration points of the church year.

This year's two vicars, Jacob Fabich and Tom Kitson, share a little of their experience from this special time of preparation for ordained ministry ...



Jacob Fabich

St Pauls Lutheran Church, Shepparton Victoria
(Vicar Father: Rev Matthias Prenzler)

Vicarage is great! I don't really want to leave. I have enjoyed making connections within the congregation and wider community. The Shepparton congregation is very vibrant with many children – a children's talk can have up to 25 children present, it's like teaching a school class. Music is a key part of worship here and I have enjoyed the musical enthusiasm of the local African community – we have a unique blend of worship in Swahili and English and it is delightful to see the two cultures working with each other. A significant part of ministry in Shepparton is related to assisting with social support needs – many refugees need help with Centrelink forms, housing applications, citizenship applications and visas to reunite families. As well as the cross-cultural aspect, my vicarage is unique in that it is part of a large parish, that covers members from Shepparton, Echuca, Deniliquin, Cobram and Seymour. My Vicar Father Matthias and I have had plenty of travel time to discuss pastoral ministry (and share the odd joke!). I only wish that my vicarage placement could be longer.



Tom Kitson

St Paul Lutheran Church, Blair Athol South Australia
(Vicar Father: Rev Matthew Bishop)

During my vicarage at St Paul, I've had a full experience, including opportunities to work closely with a pastor day-to-day, visit members and get to know the local community, lead services and preach sermons, start a youth band and lead school chapel. Given that this congregation is co-located with a Lutheran school, it's been great to learn more about the relationship between church and school and to be fully immersed in a ministry role. My call to ministry is solidifying through my vicarage placement and I'm excited to continue learning and building on this experience.

Changes to ALC's fieldwork program

With a contemporary learning model which connects with students wherever they are rather than requiring them to be physically present in North Adelaide, how are the fieldwork components of ALC programs now managed?

This is a good question and one to which college staff have turned their attention as the transition to the new learning model expands across all programs of the college.

The *Discover* discernment process already contained an extended local congregational ministry placement. This is the start of fieldwork for most students. The *Discover* portfolio of evidence and reflection is a required part of the application process for entering a pathway to ordination.

Subsequent fieldwork for these students is structured around the need to provide evidence that they have achieved the pastoral graduate outcomes determined by the LCANZ's College of Bishops in 2018.

Most placements, which would typically include schools, aged care, disability support and volunteer organisations, can be completed in the student's local area. However, it is not enough to just show up to complete fieldwork requirements. Students need to engage in the life of the organisation and report on their experience in a way that leads to reflective self-assessment of their progress towards fieldwork learning goals.

Their local fieldwork supervisors also report against the learning goals and graduate outcomes. This means that students, in consultation with the fieldwork coordinator at ALC, need to find suitable local fieldwork sites with the capacity to enable them to meet their learning goals. The cumulative collection of evidence gathered from fieldwork placements and activities becomes part of readiness for vicarage assessments, and eventually supports the student's candidature for ordination.

Many graduate outcomes for lay and ordained ministry relate to *learning* most effectively done outside a classroom.

A similar system is in place for students seeking other ministry roles. This uses the LCANZ church worker accreditation criteria to inform fieldwork learning goals. Naturally, students in pre-service education programs complete professional experience placements in Lutheran schools and early-childhood services as part of their initial teacher training, using these placements to gather evidence for their readiness-for-teaching portfolio.

Fieldwork is a critical part of ALC learning programs. Many graduate outcomes required by the church for lay and ordained ministry personnel relate to learning which is most effectively done outside a classroom. Making provision for this, ensuring potential fieldwork sites can facilitate suitable learning experiences, and having deep conversations with students about their progress towards graduate outcomes, are all part of an agile system helping to make this distributed fieldwork model work for students.

PATHWAYS TO TEACHING CHRISTIAN STUDIES

(Graduate and Undergraduate)

"I found the Graduate Certificate in Teaching Religious Education immensely rewarding!"

This course instructed me in the practicalities of teaching religious education as well as the theological and biblical understandings required of a successful Christian Studies teacher."

- Tracie, 2022 Student

ALC

UNIVERSITY OF DIVINITY

WWW.ALC.EDU.AU/STUDY

REGISTER NOW



Library supports wide-ranging needs

ALC's library is available to support the learning, teaching and research needs of students, staff and **also the wider pastoral and academic community of the LCANZ**. The library houses a wide range of print and electronic resources and subscribes to current periodicals. Enquiries are welcome to library@alc.edu.au

ALC Library opening hours

During semester: Tuesday to Friday 8.30am–4.30pm

During holidays and mid-semester breaks: Tuesday to Friday 9am–4pm

Books can be returned outside of opening hours, using the return chute located near the entrance to the library.



DEBUNKING THE MYTHS: *fact versus fiction*

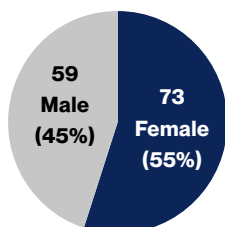


FICTION: ALC is just the old 'Sem'

FACT: ALC has not been the 'Sem' for 19 years. General Synod 2003 decided to change the name of Luther Seminary to Australian Lutheran College from 1 January 2004 to better reflect the fact that the college trained teachers and lay workers in addition to pastors.

FICTION: Only males study at ALC

FACT: On average over the past five years, the number of female students enrolled in higher education studies at ALC has been on par with the number of male students enrolled at ALC. In 2022, 55 per cent of students were female.



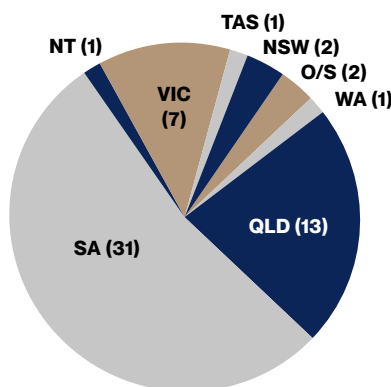
COURSE ENROLMENT SUMMARY BY GENDER – FULL YEAR 2022 DATA

FICTION: ALC only trains pastors

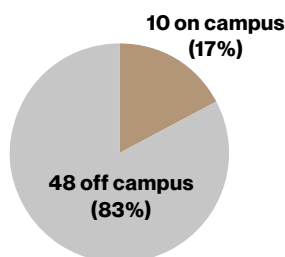
FACT: ALC prepares candidates to be pastors, teachers and lay workers for the LCANZ. The majority of ALC's higher education students are, in fact, teachers undertaking post-graduate studies.

FICTION: You need to move to Adelaide to study at ALC

FACT: Previously, students studying for pastoral ministry were required to move to Adelaide to complete their studies. This is no longer the case. ALC's current learning model, which incorporates online learning, intensives and local ministry and wider church placements, does not require any students to reside in Adelaide. Nowadays, students learn from wherever they live, supported by mentors in their local congregations, and undertake fieldwork in their local settings.



GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS – S1 2023 DATA



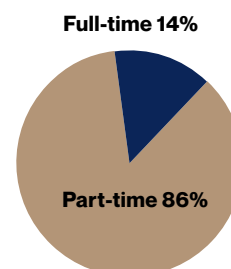
PERCENTAGE OF THOSE STUDYING OFF CAMPUS AND ON CAMPUS – S1 2023 DATA

FICTION: ALC only has a handful of students

FACT: While student numbers have declined significantly in recent years, ALC currently has 58 students enrolled in its higher education program for Semester 1 – a small number of whom are in the pastoral and pre-pastoral studies stream. Aside from higher education (which generates the most income), the college hosts a range of online training courses including Lay Preacher training and Cross-Cultural Ministry training. ALC also offers professional development opportunities and customised training for schools, congregations and ministry groups, and provides intensive theological training for Specific Ministry Pastors and Aboriginal pastors several times a year. ALC also provides training webinars for overseas partners through LCA International Mission.

FICTION: You can only study full-time through ALC

FACT: All courses offered by ALC can be studied part-time. In 2023, 86 per cent of ALC's higher education students are studying part-time, as are all participants completing online training courses.



S1 2023 DATA

Called to serve – COULD THIS BE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW?

The church needs more people to train for service as pastors, school leaders, chaplains and lay workers. So, what qualities might help you to identify a suitable candidate?

- **Committed to their Christian faith** eg regular worshipper, involved in church activities
- **Good communication skills**
- **Good judgement**
- **Servant heart**
- **Emotionally mature**
- **Leadership qualities**
- **Reliable**
- **Able to work with others**
- **Open to learning**

Do you know someone (male or female) who fits this description? If so, please let them know the potential you see in them and encourage them to make enquiries at ALC.



AUSTRALIAN LUTHERAN COLLEGE

L E A R N I N G F O R L I F E

'Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus'

Philippians 3:13,14 NRSV.

Dear ALC supporter,

In the Old Testament the word for 'watchman' comes from a verb that means 'to lean forward'. A watcher leans toward the horizon to have the first view of the approaching future so that those within the city walls can organise a timely, appropriate response. We have been doing something similar at Australian Lutheran College (ALC). We have seen the change coming for the LCANZ and ourselves and are organising to respond – not only to ensure our viability but to encourage people who previously felt unable to participate in our programs of preparation for church service to enquire about study.

While ALC remains centrally organised, we are now locally focused. Our learning, teaching and research are increasingly contextually constructed and practice-driven. We want our students to learn and reflect on their learning from where they live, serve and witness.

At the beginning of this letter, I shared a text from Philippians. The optimism with which St Paul writes is surprising because he was writing from prison. His was not a sombre tone. Why? Because he was future-focused.

Paul's focus was not on a future of his own making, or on any personal triumph. Instead, he leaned into a future now opened to him, and us: '[to press on...] toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus'.

At ALC we also lean into our future. Despite our recent challenges – declining student numbers, reduced funding from the LCANZ, changes to permanent staffing levels and growing financial pressures (it costs around \$400,000 annually to operate from our aging North Adelaide campus), our optimism is in the one who faithfully creates our future and frees us for that future – Christ Jesus.

I hope you are encouraged by the decisive steps we are taking towards the future, which underline our commitment to continue training people to serve as pastors, teachers, chaplains and other church workers. Our purpose is a gift from God, as is your partnership.

ALC needs students as much as it needs financial resources in preparing future generations for service. Most of all, ALC needs your prayers and your partnership in the gospel, as we lean forward to the future: towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Please consider supporting ALC through this year's appeal. Donations over \$2.00 are tax-deductible and all are gratefully received.

Pastor James Winderlich

PRINCIPAL



My donation to Australian Lutheran College is:

\$

All donations \$2.00 and over are fully tax-deductible and gratefully received!

I give my ministry donation by:

Cheque / Money order (payable to ALC)

MasterCard Visa

.....

Cardholder

Signature

Expires / CVV Number

3 digit security number usually on back of card

Direct transfer to ALC Direct Deposit Account

BSB: 704 942 | Account no: 100654290

(To ensure that you receive a receipt from ALC, please email accounts@alc.edu.au to advise of your direct transfer.)

Donate online at alc.edu.au/donate

YES, please send me information about including ALC in my will

YES, please send me information about studying through ALC

My details for receipt

Title

First name

Last name

Address

..... Postcode

Best phone

Email

Invest in the future –
LEAVE A LEGACY

None of us can know what lies in the future. The coronavirus pandemic reminds us of that. We, therefore, prepare by wisely and lovingly using our gifts and resources. How, with what we now have, will we care for those who come after us? What legacy do we want to leave?

We live by faith. While we don't know *what* our futures hold, we do know with complete certainty *who* is our future. The God whom we now thank, praise, serve and obey is also the God of our certain future. The writer of 1 Peter reminds us that we have a living inheritance 'that can never perish, spoil or fade' (1 Peter 1:4).

How has God provided for you? Is it time to consider your legacy – one that will continue to support and equip people to serve?

Legacies enable ALC to provide quality training for church workers now and into the future and to support students as they pursue their call to ministry – preparing to proclaim and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ.

You can contribute to this vision by including ALC in your will. You may like to support a specific project at ALC. Alternatively, you can dedicate your bequest for general purposes, which means we will direct it to the most crucial area of need. Through your bequest, your partnership with ALC will continue long into the future.

To find out more about including ALC in your will, contact the Business Manager, Judy Baker, on freecall 1800 625 193, email business@alc.edu.au or write to Judy at Australian Lutheran College, 104 Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide SA 5006.