

ALC

FUTURE *church*
FUTURE *focus*
FUTURE *learning*



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’ or ‘watcher’ comes from a verb that means to lean forward. A watcher leans toward the horizon to have the first view of the approaching future. This is so that a timely, appropriate, and proportionate response can be organised by the people within the city walls. We have been doing something similar at Australian Lutheran College (ALC). We have seen the change that is coming for the LCANZ and for ourselves, and we are organising ourselves to respond to that change—not only to ensure our future viability, but to encourage people to enquire about study who have previously felt unable to participate in our various programs of preparation for service in the Church.

While ALC remains centrally organised we are now locally focussed, forming partnerships with one of the greatest resources that God gives the Church – each other. Our learning, teaching and research activities are increasingly becoming 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 have shared a text from Philippians where St Paul also writes with optimism. His optimism comes as a surprise to us because he was writing from prison. We would expect that Paul would have written with a more sombre tone. But he didn’t. Why? Because he was future focussed.

Paul’s future focus was not on a future of his own making, or for any personal triumph over adversity. Instead, he leaned forward to a future now opened up for 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 the challenges that we have faced in recent years – declining student numbers, reduced funding from the LCANZ (2022 funding equalled that received from the LCA in 2011), changes to permanent staffing levels and growing financial pressures (for example, 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 who frees us for that future, Christ Jesus.



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I hope that you are encouraged by the decisive steps we have taken towards the future: steps that underline our commitment to continue training people to serve as pastors, teachers, chaplains and other church workers despite the challenges facing the College and the uncertainty facing our Church. 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 in the Church. 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 annual appeal. Donations over \$2.00 are tax-deductible and all are gratefully received.

Your brother in Christ

Pastor James Winderlich
Principal

My donation to Australian Lutheran College is:

\$

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

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