Festival of Learning 2021

Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February

Book your seat ... at ALC or at home

Anyone. Anywhere.
About ALC’s Festival of Learning

Welcome
Australian Lutheran College welcomes you to the inaugural theological Festival of Learning. We are excited to offer a varied, flexible and engaging program, accessible by anyone anywhere. Please join us and become part of the ALC community of learners. The following information will assist you in planning your involvement.

General information
The Festival of Learning recognises that the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand (LCANZ) has a rich history of gathering in community to learn together. ALC and its predecessors have always been an integral part of this learning culture, but this is the first time ever that it has been easy to engage with members and friends of the LCANZ beyond Adelaide. In a hybrid approach, on-campus sessions will be live-streamed to enable access from anywhere. You choose whether you attend on campus, online or a mixture of both. Attend just one festival session, every time slot available, or anything in between. While some sessions have more complex content than others, there are no restrictions—you can participate in any sessions that interest you.

There are two key types of sessions: electives and seminars.

- Electives
  - Are either one-off or a series of sessions.
  - Are accessed via a very cost-effective general admission ticket.
  - May be designed as a full day or half-day program.
  - Are selected when you register.

- Seminars
  - Have multiple sessions.
  - Are directly related to ALC units being taught in semester 1.
  - Assume participants will attend the entire sequence.
  - Include free access to any electives which don’t clash with the seminar sessions.
  - Can be a stepping stone to completing the semester 1 unit.

All sessions will commence promptly on the hour and conclude 10 minutes prior to the next session to allow time for COVID cleaning and the opportunity to change rooms or stretch between sessions.

The electives are conducted in ALC classrooms with wheelchair access. Limited parking is available on campus on a first come, first served basis, but there is plenty of free 2-hour parking in Ward Street and surrounding areas. North Adelaide has many options for the meal breaks.

The seminars are located in upstairs rooms but those with mobility issues can access these via live stream.

Online participants are given access to the appropriate live-stream session and need to ensure that their equipment and internet speed is suitable for accessing the live stream. Note that online sessions will commence only a few minutes prior to the published start time.

Worship
Morning chapel will be held and live-streamed between 8:30 and 8:50 am each morning, Monday to Friday.
Opening Conversation: Forming the Heart to Serve

Learning transforms the learner towards enriched ways of understanding and acting. That transformation might happen through an intentional program of study, or through reflection upon various life experiences, both good and bad. In the Christian life such transformation particularly happens as people encounter God. That encounter happens when God’s word is proclaimed and taught, and when people are baptised and receive Holy Communion. In each encounter the whole person is guided by the Holy Spirit to grow through those encounters. This often happens in the contexts of community life. At ALC we call those Spirit-guided, reflective encounters ‘Formation’.

The Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand’s formative contexts are diverse. This is a challenge for ALC. Our 2021 opening conversation will identify that diversity and suggest ways to strengthen formative experiences across many parts of the Church.

When:
- Monday, 15 February 2021, 2:00 pm–3:00 pm

Admission costs

All options include access to daily worship and the Opening Conversation.

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<tr>
<th>General admission</th>
<th>$50.00</th>
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<tr>
<td>Access your choice of electives (price includes up to 17 elective sessions.)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Exploring the Bible seminars</th>
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<th>The Christian Faith seminars</th>
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<th>Hebrew seminars</th>
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<td>Access Hebrew seminars plus select from available electives.</td>
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Discounts are available for ALC students.

Registration

Registrations open in mid-January.


When completing your registration, it is important that you provide an email address that you can easily access. We will use this email address to communicate details about the Festival of Learning, such as how to access sessions you are attending via live stream.

Enquiries

Contact ALC if you require further information about the Festival of Learning:
Email: events@alc.edu.au
Telephone: +61 8 7120 8200
Freecall: 1800 625 193
Seminars

Seminars are designed to be accessed as a complete series. Seminar ticket holders will also have free access to electives scheduled outside of the seminar times.

Exploring the Bible

*Dr Stephen Haar*

There are many misconceptions about the Bible—even among Christians. For example, despite what some may think, the Bible is not a 'magic answer' book for all questions in life. Nor, at its heart, is it a list of commands to obey and promises to claim. Rather, the Bible is God’s story: teaching us who God is, who we are in relationship to God and others, and what God’s purpose is for us and the world. Across three seminars, we will explore 'How to read the Bible well':

- Seminar 1 – Reading the Bible as History
- Seminar 2 – Reading the Bible as Literature
- Seminar 3 – Reading the Bible as Theology

**When:**
- Monday 15 February, 9:00 am–12:00 pm
- Tuesday 16 February, 9:00 am–12:00 pm
- Wednesday 17 February, 9:00 am–12:00 pm

The Christian Faith

*Rev Richard Haar*

In the first session of *The Christian Faith* we will focus on the first article of the Creed and explore what it means to believe in God our Creator. We will identify the main themes of creation theology as well as unpack the important emphasis on God’s on-going care and provision for our lives today.

The second session will focus on the second article of the Creed and explore what it means to believe in God our Redeemer. We will discuss Jesus’ identity as both human and divine and how this is significant for our understanding of his saving work on the cross.

In the final session, we will focus on the third article of the Creed and explore what it means to believe in God our Sanctifier. We will examine how the Holy Spirit brings us God’s grace and how the Lutheran emphasis on the priority of grace shapes our lives as Christians.

**When:**
- Wednesday 17 February, 1:00 pm–4:00 pm
- Thursday 18 February, 9:00 am–12:00 pm
- Friday 19 February, 9:00 am–12:00 pm

Hebrew

*Dr Adam Hensley*

Have you ever thought about learning a biblical language? Why not start with the language in which three-quarters of the Bible is written: Hebrew! Over four 3-hour seminars we will begin the journey all students of Hebrew take, learning the alphabet, how to read and write Hebrew words, and some basic vocabulary. Participants in this seminar series are actively encouraged to continue their study of Hebrew by enrolling in the semester-length unit at the conclusion of the Festival of Learning.

**When:**
- Monday 15 February, 9:00 am–12:00 pm
- Tuesday 16 February, 9:00 am–12:00 pm
- Thursday 18 February, 9:00 am–12:00 pm
- Friday 19 February, 9:00 am–12:00 pm
**Electives**

Only one elective per time slot can be selected. Once you commence selections, the registration software will limit your choice of electives to time slots that you still have available.

**Luther’s Theology of the Cross**

*Dr Stephen Pietsch*

It is an increasingly trendy subject, but what is it? Quite possibly not what you think. This three-part mini-course covers:

- Session 1 – Its roots in Scripture and church history, including Luther’s key insights.
- Session 2 – Its crucial ongoing implications today for spirituality and the Christian life.
- Session 3 – Its central role in Christian pastoral care, especially with the suffering.

While the three sessions are definitely linked together in order to give a more complete introduction to the topic, each session will also be of interest and benefit as a stand-alone session.

**When:**

- Monday 15 February, 11:00 am–12:00 pm
- Tuesday 16 February, 11:00 am–12:00 pm
- Wednesday 17 February, 11:00 am–12:00 pm

**Rethinking Faith Formation in the 21st century**

*Mrs Jodi Brook & Mrs Christine Matthias*

For many congregations and families, sharing the Christian faith is an area of struggle and challenge. Culture and society have changed so much, raising many new questions, issues, and pressures. This is not about a new program or ideology, but instead remembering the ways God showed us to incorporate ministry into our everyday lives.

We invite you to join us in rethinking faith formation ministry for a new time and a new age by exploring together …

- Session 1 – What are we rethinking and why?
- Session 2 – Developing healthy communities and creating a culture that nurtures faith.
- Session 3 – The importance of growing in faith together.
- Session 4 – Home is Church too—the relationship between homes and congregations.

You’ll gain the most benefit from this topic if you attend all sessions. If this is not possible, attending sessions one and two would be highly recommended.

**When:**

- Monday 15 February, 1:00 pm–2:00 pm
- Tuesday 16 February, 1:00 pm–2:00 pm
- Wednesday 17 February, 1:00 pm–2:00 pm
- Thursday 18 February, 1:00 pm–2:00 pm

**Lutheranism in an Ecumenical Context**

*Rev Tom Pietsch*

This presentation will explore what it means to be a Lutheran when surrounded by Christians belonging to different denominations. Are Lutherans just one more flavour among others? Using the insights of Wilhelm Löhe, we’ll be seeing why the Lutheran confession of the Reformation is relevant for the 21st century and beyond.

**When:**

- Tuesday 16 February, 10:00 am–11:00 am
Lucas Cranach the Elder: Papal and Protestant Painter of the Wittenberg Reformation

Mrs Pam Zweck

The presentation includes a brief overview of the collaboration between Lucas Cranach the Elder and Martin Luther, and Cranach’s dual role as both Catholic and Protestant painter. The discussion will examine a selection of his Catholic and Protestant images with particular attention given to his altarpieces, the changes he made to Protestant second editions of his early Catholic images, and the different emphasis given to his Catholic paintings that were retained unaltered for use in the Protestant churches.

When:
- Tuesday 16 February, 1:00 pm–2:00 pm

Setting our Sails to Catch the Wind

Rev Nathan Hedt

‘And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting’ (Acts 2:2). The Holy Spirit is often described in very elemental terms: fire, wind and water chief among them. These describe not who he is, but what he does. Neither Christian life nor leadership are self-directed or self-empowered activities. We simply set our sails to catch the Wind, whom we know and believe to be ‘the Lord, the Giver of Life’.

This session will explore the person and experience of the Holy Spirit in life and ministry. Choose from one of two time slots.

When:
- Tuesday 16 February, 2:00 pm–3:00 pm
- Wednesday 17 February, 2:00 pm–3:00 pm

Use of Psalmody in the Order of Matins

Dr Adam Hensley

The psalms have long been central to Christian worship, being prayed, sung, chanted, and meditated upon on a weekly and even daily basis in Christian communities and homes throughout the centuries. Meanwhile many of the responses, acclamations of praise or thanksgiving, prayers, etc. that Christians speak in the liturgies and worship orders of the Church also come from the psalms. In this workshop we will explore how the ‘Order of Matins’ (or ‘Morning Prayer’) draws on the rich depths of the psalms as it teaches us to worship the Lord by using God’s own Word given to us.

When:
- Tuesday 16 February, 2:00 pm–3:00 pm

Introduction to Worship

Dr Andrew Pfeiffer

Are you a congregational member or lay reader interested in a little more understanding of worship? This session explores how God serves us in worship and also introduces the LCA worship resources as a great help for those assisting with worship in congregational life.

When:
- Wednesday 17 February, 10:00 am–11:00 am
An Open Conversation with ALC

Rev James Winderlich & Prof Kristine Gebbie

In being faithful to its mandate to serve the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand, ALC has undertaken processes of transformation since 2004. Following extensive consultation, those processes were given contemporary expression in the College’s current Strategic Direction (2017–2022). ALC is a learning community that is called to serve a learning Church by preparing servants of all kinds for particular areas of ministry.

This topic presents an opportunity for participants to connect with ALC’s agenda to witness and serve through the Gospel in the life of the LCANZ.

When:
- Thursday 18 February, 10:00 am–11:00 am

Law and Gospel: Pastoral Implications

Rev Fraser Pearce

God brings us to faith in Christ Jesus (and keeps us in this faith) by giving us his word of Law and Gospel—by giving us both his demands and promises. As we hear this whole word of God, God saves us from pride and from despair, and leads us to find true peace in what Jesus has done for us (rather than in what we can do for God). It’s this life of faith in Christ that frees us to mature in Christian love. In this session we will outline how we understand Law and Gospel as Lutheran Christians, and how this understanding shapes our spirituality and worship life.

When:
- Thursday 18 February, 11:00 am–12:00 pm

Mission through Media

Rev Richard Fox

Come along to learn ways that you can use to reach and engage people with the good news of Jesus Christ through media. Today the internet, and especially social media, offers us all opportunities to share our hope in Jesus Christ and make a difference in the lives of our family, friends and neighbours. Discover how you can use podcasts, videos, and images to share that hope.

When:
- Thursday 18 February, 1:00 pm–2:00 pm

Doubt in the New Testament

Dr Anna Nuernberger

Faith is a dominant theme in early Christian teaching. It is also a central component of early Christianity identity—the term ‘believers’ (πιστοί or οἱ πιστεύοντες) was in fact a common self-designation in the early ‘Christian’ movement with boundary-marking significance. Because belief and non-belief were central to Christian identity in the formative stage of the Jesus movement, expressions and concepts of doubt and other forms of inner dissonance deserve more attention in New Testament scholarship.

This presentation will focus on some key terms relating to doubt and dissonance in New Testament scripture, along with their respective contexts. It will explore not only the variety of voices related to such phenomena, but also their explicit or implicit appraisals contained within early Christian writings.

When:
- Thursday 18 February, 2:00 pm–3:00 pm
Time Management within a Ministry Context

Miss Emma Graetz

Managing our time within a ministry context can be very different from how we manage it within a workplace setting. You will be given tips and hints on how to manage your diary and work schedules to reflect the needs of your ministry role while also considering a work-life balance.

When:
• Thursday 18 February, 2:00 pm–3:00 pm

God-talk in Church and Congregation

Prof Wendy Mayer

In this session you will learn about four different modes or voices with which we communicate God and what God is asking of us to other people, sometimes without realising it. Learning how to recognise these voices will help lay people and pastors to understand more clearly what they communicate about God to others and to value what each other has to say.

When:
• Friday 19 February, 10:00 am–11:00 am

Key Bible Texts of the Lutheran Reformation

Dr Stephen Pietsch

The Lutheran Reformation of the 16th century was essentially a biblical movement, which grew out of renewed close study of Scripture and was sustained by the translation of the Bible into the language of the common reader. In this session we look at Luther’s key biblical discoveries which opened up again to the church the clear preaching of the Gospel.

When:
• Friday 19 February, 11:00 am–12:00 pm

Remembering the Reformation: Monuments and Memorials

Prof Peter Sherlock

The Reformation changed the way Europeans thought about the past. How were the dead to be remembered by the living? How could sins be forgiven, even forgotten, for Protestant or Catholics? The legacy of the Reformation remains a source of hope and of division in the contemporary world. On the one hand, Christians recall and celebrate the inheritance of the reformers and counter-reformers as life-giving traditions. On the other hand, the suffering, violence and death from the martyrdoms and wars continue to reverberate today. This presentation reviews the history of how the Reformation itself has been remembered, especially in monuments and memorials. It suggests new ways in which Christians might more fully commemorate the Reformation with a view to reconciliation.

When:
• Friday 19 February, 1:00 pm–2:00 pm
Presenters

Mrs Jodi Brook
Director of Grow Ministries, Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand

Jodi has been the Director of Grow Ministries since its beginning in 2013 and brings a wealth of knowledge to the team after many years’ experience in congregational life. Jodi has worked alongside her husband Andrew, (lead pastor at St John’s Lutheran Church, Unley, SA) discipling those around her. Together they have modelled faith at home to their three (now young adult) children, Henri, Emilia and Tom.

Rev Richard Fox
Director of Lutheran Media, Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand

Richard enjoys family life and sport. After working at Lutheran Community Care, umpiring AFL, and serving as the Waikerie Lutheran Parish pastor, he is currently the Director of Lutheran Media. Lutheran Media produces videos, podcasts and resources to reach out to millions of people through Messages of Hope, Happyland and other ministries such as online and DVD worship.

Professor Kristine Gebbie
Chair, Board of Directors, Australian Lutheran College

Kristine has served on the ALC Board since 2015, during which she has acted in various office-bearer positions including Secretary, Vice Chair and now Chair. She has over 20 years’ experience in hospital administration, with academic appointments to Flinders University, the University of Adelaide, and Torrens Resiliency Institute. Kristine’s qualifications include a Doctor of Public Health, Master of Nursing and a Bachelor of Science (Nursing).

Miss Emma Graetz
Director of VET, Australian Lutheran College

Emma has worked for the Lutheran Church of Australia for over 18 years, serving in South Australia, New Zealand and Queensland in a variety of roles including child, youth and family ministry and leadership development. She joined the ALC team in 2013 and currently serves as the Director of Vocational Education and Training. Emma enjoys spending time with her family, playing music and board games.

Rev Richard Haar
Lecturer in Systematics and Pastoral Theology, Australian Lutheran College

Richard was born in New Zealand and immigrated to Australia in 1977 to train as a pastor at Luther Seminary in Adelaide. Following his ordination in 1984, he served as a missionary in Papua New Guinea for five years, then as a parish pastor in different parts of Australia from 1988 to 2015. During this time he also gained his Master of Theology. Richard commenced work at ALC in 2016, and lectures in the two areas of Systematic Theology and Practical Theology. He is married to Julie and has two adult children, Emily and Sam.
Dr Stephen Haar
Dean; Lecturer in Theology, Australian Lutheran College

Stephen has been a pastor for 42 years, serving in Queensland and South Australia from 1979 to 2004. After completing his doctorate, from 2005 to 2006 he enjoyed a rich mix of experiences including studies in education, teaching in seminaries of partner churches in Asia, and being a scholar-in-residence in the USA. In 2007 he commenced at ALC as Lecturer in New Testament and Pastoral Studies, was appointed Academic Dean in 2008 and Dean/Vice-Principal in 2010, and accredited as Senior Lecturer by the University of Divinity in 2014. He is recognised for strengths in learning and teaching, with significant contributions to student experience and transformative learning at undergraduate level. He is married to Janet. They have four adult children and seven grandchildren.

Rev Nathan Hedt
Pastor for New and Renewing Churches, Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand

Nathan is a church planter and describes himself as a 'missionary to the West.' He is taking up the role of Pastor for New and Renewing Churches for the LCANZ in 2021. As Australia becomes a more post-Christian culture, he sees the need for new churches to reach new people, and so is joyful to see God at work raising up a movement of mission, evangelism and church planting in the LCA and beyond. He envisions the Spirit of God moving to bring many to faith in Christ—people from diverse backgrounds and cultures—as the LCANZ prays and plans to partner with God in planting many new churches. Nathan is married to Yvette and they have three young adult daughters. He loves playing cricket, and joyriding in his restored classic 1975 Mini.

Dr Adam Hensley
Lecturer in Old Testament, Australian Lutheran College

A pastor since his ordination 20 years ago, Adam has served parishes in Hamilton, Victoria and Magill, South Australia. He taught Old Testament and Hebrew for a number of years at Concordia University Irvine, California, before taking the call to ALC where he is now in his fifth year of service. Having earned a PhD in Biblical Studies from Concordia Seminary St Louis, Adam’s specialty and main academic interest is the Psalms.

His other academic interests include biblical languages, hermeneutics, textual criticism, and Pauline literature, and he especially enjoys learning and teaching the Books of Exodus and Isaiah, and the Wisdom Literature. Adam and his wife Joanna have six children (Samuel, Mary, John, Lucy, Thomas and Hannah) who love learning, traveling (COVID-permitting!), and growing together as a family.

Mrs Christine Matthias
Resource Coordinator, Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand

Christine has been working with Grow Ministries for three years as Resource Coordinator and brings many experiences to her role. She has been actively involved in congregation life from a young age, joining a volunteer travelling ministry band called Watermark with Lutheran Youth Encounter, and travelling for 17 months in the USA, Germany and Denmark. This is where she met her husband, Reid. Reid answered the call to ministry after 13 years of youth and camp ministry and they have served together in the US and in Australia. They have three daughters and they love singing and playing music together.
**Professor Wendy Mayer**  
Associate Dean for Research, *Australian Lutheran College*  
In her role at ALC, Wendy works closely with ministries within the LCANZ to help the church understand its past and present and prepare for its future. Current projects include gathering data about church worker wellbeing to help the LCANZ Church Worker Support Department provide appropriate support, and exploring and training lay people and pastors for pastor-supported lay worship leadership in the SA-NT and QLD Districts.

**Dr Anna Nuernberger**  
Postdoctoral Research Associate, *Australian Lutheran College*  
Anna was born and grew up in Nuremberg, Germany. She studied theology, Anglophone literature and English linguistics at the universities of Erlangen and Augsburg in Germany, and at Flinders University and the Adelaide College of Divinity in South Australia. After working as a high school teacher in Bavaria, she obtained her doctoral degree in Biblical Theology in 2017 from Augsburg University. Anna has worked as a Research Assistant and Lecturer at Hamburg University. As Postdoctoral Research Associate she helps further ALC’s research program and acts as the Lutheran Theological Journal Editorial Assistant.

**Rev Fraser Pearce**  
Senior Pastor, *Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Adelaide*  
Fraser is a pastor of the Lutheran Church of Australia, currently serving at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Flinders Street, Adelaide. He has previously served at St Paul’s, Box Hill, and at Bethlehem, Bendigo.  
Fraser is a member of the LCANZ Commission for Theology and Inter-church Relations, and the Australian Lutheran–Catholic Dialogue.  
He is married to Margaret and has four children.

**Dr Andrew Pfeiffer**  
Lecturer in Pastoral Theology, *Australian Lutheran College*  
Andrew teaches at ALC in the areas of pastoral theology, missiology and systematic theology. In recent years he has been teaching a unit introducing some of the basics of worship and spirituality.  
He enjoys his family, garden and all things AFL.

**Dr Stephen Pietsch**  
Lecturer in Pastoral Theology (Counselling); Director of Formation, *Australian Lutheran College*  
Stephen was ordained in 1988, served as a parish pastor (1989–2008) and as Victorian District Assistant Bishop (2005–2008), and since 2008 has lectured in pastoral theology at ALC, where he also currently serves as Director of Formation. He teaches pastoral care and counselling, preaching, liturgics and Lutheran Confessions. His specialty area of research is Luther’s theology and practice of pastoral care. He is also the chairman of the LCANZ Commission for Theology and Inter-church Relations.
Rev Tom Pietsch
Lecturer in Church History, Australian Lutheran College

Tom was ordained a pastor of the LCA in 2010 and served the Grovedale parish for some four years. Before studying for the ministry, he studied economics and classics at Monash and Melbourne University. He has since received a masters from Concordia Seminary, St Louis, where he wrote on Augustine’s treatment of nature and grace and its reception today. He has now started doctoral studies.

Tom is married to Chelsea and has two young sons. He still loves playing sports, watching old films, reading novels, participating in the liturgy, and being with his family.

Professor Peter Sherlock
Vice-Chancellor, University of Divinity

Peter is an internationally recognised expert on the cultural history of Renaissance and Reformation Europe. His major work focusses on the commemoration of the dead and cultures of remembering and forgetting in human societies, especially as represented in monuments and memorials. Recent publications include:


Rev James Winderlich
Principal, Australian Lutheran College

James has been a pastor of the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand since 1991. During this time he has served in a diverse variety of parish settings, and in other LCANZ roles and beyond. He commenced as ALC Principal in 2014 and has worked with the College community together with the wider Church to develop the College’s various programs to meet the growing needs of a constantly changing church.

Mrs Pam Zweck
PhD student, Australian Lutheran College

Pam is an ALC PhD candidate studying through the University of Divinity under the supervision of Dr Mark Worthing and Dr Josephine Laffin. Her PhD topic relates to Lucas Cranach the Elder and involves church history, systematic theology and art. Pam is now retired from her former role as Acquisitions and Liaison Librarian at the ALC Library.

As a result of her PhD, Pam hopes to engender a greater appreciation of Lucas Cranach’s reformational art in general, and to foster its application for educational and liturgical use in Christian churches and schools.