

# Saints Alive

News from Australian Lutheran College

Issue 1, 2012

## Building a Future with Hope



*Australian Lutheran College*

# Building a future with hope

*“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”* (Jeremiah 29:11)

Dear friends and supporters of Australian Lutheran College (ALC),

God’s people are confident about the future. That is why they are always hopeful.

Our future isn’t the result of our dreams, plans and hard work. Yes, we do have plans, and we do work hard, but the future belongs to God. It’s not a ‘when’, or a ‘maybe’. It’s a ‘who’ – Jesus Christ, God’s Son, is our future.

When God took on our humanity, when Jesus Christ became truly human, he created a new future for us. Christ took on our sin and guilt, and restored us to a right relationship with God. He is our present, and our future.

So when the world tells us to give up, and when statistics are used to prove that the church is dying and the ‘game is over’, God’s people get up and get going. We are building a future with hope because in Jesus we know our future. We live it, right now, today, in everything we are and do.

ALC wants to be your partner in that future. Over the years we have invested strongly in our learning and teaching resources. We have the tools to help us build that future together, to grow in faith, understanding, and life.

Our core purpose is to serve the LCA through the training of pastors, teachers, and lay workers. It doesn’t stop there, however. We also serve the people of the church more widely, people who just want to learn a bit more, delve a bit deeper, or discover new ways of growing.

Grassroots Training is part of this activity, offering ways you can use what ALC has to offer, growing ‘everyday people for every day ministry.’

Being a theological school in today’s environment can be tough going. Our world is changing quickly, and our church is changing with it. People expect new things of us, but our faith in Jesus remains the same. How do we live that faith? How will people remember Christ when they are forgetting things we once took for granted? People no longer know the prayers, creeds, and songs of the church as they once did. We have to go back to basics. What was once taught to children in the home must now be taught to adults later in life. We have to rediscover all over again what it is to be Christian, and also what it is to be Lutheran. How will we do that without the training resources offered by ALC?

The church – your church – generously supports our work, but resources can still be scarce. Individuals and congregations are still encouraged to make special gifts, and we appreciate each and every one of them. To make it easier individuals can tax deduct monetary gifts to ALC, and we hope you will make use of this facility.

Our theme verse for this appeal is based on Jeremiah 29:11. At that time, God’s people had been taken from Jerusalem into exile in Babylon. Things were bleak, but still Jeremiah writes to them with a message of hope. He tells them to get on with life and participate fully in everything that brings life and vitality to the community. Getting stuck into living life to the full is the secret of their future welfare and happiness.

It’s not so different for us today. To get the best out of what we have in life we must participate fully, and give our best to what we value, to what we believe. ALC believes in the future of God’s people. We invite you to share with us in training and educating those people to serve God. Together we are building a future with hope.

A reply paid envelope and appeal donation slip is included in this edition of Saints Alive. Further details on how you can give electronically, are available on our website [www.alc.edu.au](http://www.alc.edu.au). If you would like to make a special donation beyond the ‘normal’, or become a regular giver, please contact our Business Manager, Margaret Beare on (08) 8267 7400 or write to [business@alc.edu.au](mailto:business@alc.edu.au).

Thank you for your ongoing support.

In Christ,

**John Henderson**  
Principal



# What can ALC offer you?

**Australian Lutheran College is the post secondary education provider of the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA). Its task is to serve the LCA through the preparation and ongoing education of people for service in the church and the world.**

## Why learn with ALC?

Every year ALC welcomes new students of all ages, offering high quality learning and teaching that prepares people to be effective spiritual leaders, educators and workers who bring life and renewal in the church and communities they serve.

## What study modes are available?

The great majority of our students do not physically study on campus. Delivery modes available include: on and off campus study (depending on the course you choose), workshops, intensives and on-line learning. Today a growing number of people choose to study through flexible education (off campus study) which provides an ideal study opportunity for people who cannot attend classes because of professional or other commitments, or who live at a distance from the campus. Studying by flexible education gives you the flexibility to study anywhere, at any time and at your own pace.

Come and join us on a transformative, enjoyable, empowering journey of discovery.

## School of Pastoral Theology

This school is entrusted by the church with preparing students to become candidates for the pastoral ministry in the Lutheran Church of Australia.

## Thinking of studying for the ministry?

- Do you feel a sense of call to prepare for service as a pastor?
- Have others recognised gifts, abilities or maturity in you that make you suitable for pastoral ministry?
- Perhaps you have just begun to wonder about this and need to explore it further?

We are interested in discussing this further with you and invite you to contact us.

May God's wise Spirit guide you and help you discern his call and purpose for your life.

## School of Educational Theology

This school is entrusted by the church with preparing preservice and inservice teachers for their role in the ministry and mission of Lutheran schools.

## Thinking of becoming a teacher in a Lutheran School?

- Are you enrolled in an undergraduate or postgraduate teaching degree and would like to teach in a Lutheran school?
- Are you already teaching in a Lutheran school and would like to become accredited or better understand Lutheran theology and how it impacts on schools?

If you are interested in what this school can offer you, we invite you to contact us.

## School of Theological Studies

This school is entrusted by the church with preparing layworkers and interested individuals for service in the church and beyond.



## Looking to develop your faith through education?

STS oversees theological and practical education for a wide range of students who are seeking to deepen their faith and/or learn practical skills for general ministry. Students can choose to undertake individual units from the Higher Education curriculum on offer at ALC or gain accreditation through our nationally recognised vocational education and training courses (VET).

VET courses are flexible and designed around your schedule and location within Australia and New Zealand. Modes of delivery include workshops, group studies, flexible learning packages and virtual learning environments. We are able to formally recognise your life experiences and previous study achievements and affirm your skills already gained in relation to the study level you are completing.

This school also oversees **Grassroots Training** – the ministry of ALC that connects everyday people of the LCA and beyond through the workshops and personal development seminars it offers. (refer separate article on page 11)

If you are wanting to know more about what this school can offer you, we invite you to contact us at [sts@alc.edu.au](mailto:sts@alc.edu.au).

## Our Library

The Löhe Memorial Library serves students and staff of Australian Lutheran College, and the wider pastoral and academic community of the Lutheran Church of Australia, by providing access to excellent theological and educational resources and research tools. In carrying out this mission, our well-trained staff are committed to quality service within a warm, Christian environment.

## Boarding at ALC

In addition to ALC's educational

programs, we also provide excellent facilities which can accommodate up to 100 private boarding residents. All boarding residents are required to meet the criterion of being a full-time tertiary student studying either internally on campus or at government universities, TAFE colleges or private educational institutions.

Every person on campus is regarded as part of the ALC community, whether a student, boarding resident, staff member or volunteer. The community is Christ centred and it is expected that each member is either a practising Christian or is supportive of the Christian way of life. Communal spirit is fostered as we worship, study and live together with mutual responsibility and respect for each other. Community members are encouraged to participate in common activities, both spontaneous and structured, share problems and joys and generally assist each other.

To find out more about boarding at ALC or to arrange a tour of our

accommodation, please contact the Boarding House Manager, Kristine Leonard at [kristine.leonard@alc.edu.au](mailto:kristine.leonard@alc.edu.au).

## What of the future for ALC?

Under Christ, ALC plans to continue to grow and develop in serving the needs of the people of God. Under our strategic plan, we are in the process of building on our HED research capabilities with the opening of a new research centre (see ALITE article on page 9) In addition to this exciting venture, we continue to further our partnerships with the boards and ministries of the church by providing professional training and continuing education. None of this would be possible without your generous support.

## Wanting to contact us?

To enquire further about any of our services or to enrol in a course, please visit us at [www.alc.edu.au](http://www.alc.edu.au) or phone us on (08) 8267 7400. Our street address is 104 Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide SA 5006.

## Notable Diary Dates for 2012

### 16 July

Enrolments for Semester 2 close.

### 25 July

Fritzsche Oration

"Fifty years of Lutheran Schooling: achievements, opportunities (missed opportunities?) and challenges".  
3.30pm at Australian Lutheran College

### 31 July

Series of evening classes with a focus on biblical studies begin – open to the public  
7.30pm at Australian Lutheran College

### 23 November

ALC Valedictory Service

7.30pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church, North Adelaide SA

### 24 November

ALC Graduation Ceremony

2pm at Concordia College, Highgate SA



2



3



1

# Who has chosen to study at ALC?

**1** My name is Pastor **Peter Bowmer** and the last time I stepped on to the Sacred Lawn it was part of Luther Seminary. The Sacred Lawn is now at the heart of Australian Lutheran College. Then it was 1990, now it is 2012 and I am about to turn 50. The last time I was having a whole barrel of fun, and now I am too – although hopefully in more mature and respectful ways!

I am a Pastor of the LCA, I have spent equal amounts of time as both Congregation and School Pastor. Currently I serve at St Peters Indooroopilly where I head the Joint Ministry Team. I am both Senior Pastor in the College and the Congregation.

So why, at this stage in my life would I choose to embark on a Master of Arts (Education and Theology)? Why, because I believe in our current social and cultural circumstances, schools are the hub of the community and where cutting edge mission is taking place in the LCA. I wish the church would pour more resources into school ministry because this is where the Gospel can touch countless thousands of lives. I wish other Congregations, like St

Peters, would recognise that the schools of the church are their mission fields. Mission not just to fill increasingly empty pews, but mission to enhance and empower the lives of all Australians. I want to learn more about leadership in schools and congregations so that I can be well placed in being a positive Lutheran leader, building the future through authentic relationships.

**2** My name is **Kayla Freund**, and I began studying at Australian Lutheran College this year. After completing Year 12 last year at Endeavour College I have moved straight into UniSA beginning a Bachelor of Education (Junior Primary and Primary) degree. After attending Lutheran Schools myself I have experienced the caring and nurturing environment, and I would love to help create this setting for future students. I felt that studying the Lutheran Strand would broaden my knowledge about the bible and teaching Christian Living. So far ALC has been a great experience that has definitely grown my own faith.

**3** **Andrew Neumann** Heather and I have been married for 21 years and we have six children: Rachel, Adrian, Daniel, Janelle, Matthew and Lachlan.

My previous work (mostly based in Queensland) was initially Civil Engineering (designing dams, pipelines, flood levees etc) and then counselling (mental health issues, abuse, trauma, addictions).

Over the years I have been encouraged by a number of people to consider the pastoral ministry. At Easter last year God provided a major prompt when my counselling position was made redundant. I explored other options for working in the church, but was continually challenged to consider if God was placing me on a path towards ordination. It is now exciting to be in the ALC Pastoral Stream.

While growing up and worshipping mostly in the Lutheran Church, I have also worked and worshipped with the Baptist Church for about 8 years. This time reinforced for me the treasures that we have in our Lutheran Church confessions and practices.



4



6



5

**4** Hi. Let me introduce my family and tell you a little of our journey to ALC. My name is **Dan Mueller**. I have been married to Jenny since 2004, and in February we welcomed into the world our first child — our son Eli — who is presently 12 weeks old. Also in February I started my first year of the theology and pastoral ministry course here at ALC.

The last few months have been tumultuous to say the least. After living abroad in the Netherlands since 2008, God's pounding at the door had reached a crescendo, no longer a quiet tap which could simply be ignored. It seemed God had laid on my heart Matt 22:37: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind". I felt convicted the Lord was calling me to give Him more of my mind, so after much prayerful consideration we decided I would undertake study at ALC, not entirely sure of God's plans beyond that.

Over the course of the next few months we returned home to Australia, moved to a new state, waited for the shipping container with our furniture to arrive, unpacked and settled into our new home, gave birth to Eli, and started classes. Phew!

My previous experience has involved completing bachelor and doctorate qualifications in

computer science, specialising in medical imaging, culminating with my employment as a software engineer and research scientist in the Netherlands. Jenny is trained as an occupational therapist, but due to the language barrier, during our time overseas she worked in customer service for the European division of a US-based electronics company.

To support studies I am continuing to do some work as a contract software engineer, so I feel a bit like Paul making tents. Juggling a new baby, studying full-time, and working part-time is challenging to say the least, but God is good! So far we are very much enjoying this season of study, soaking up all we can from anyone we meet, though we are also very much looking forward to the next adventure God has in store for us.

**5** What do engineering and ministry have in common? If you find out, please let me know! My journey to ALC started last November when I read a prayer request in our church bulletin for more pastoral students. Through this seemingly mundane event I felt God calling me to a new vocation, and with the encouragement of my family and pastor here I am! Prior to that I studied mechanical engineering and worked as a designer and manager for around 13 years, both in South Australia

and in the UK. It was overseas that I met my wife Gertraud and we have been married for over 10 years. We have two lively children Gabriel (8) and Rebecca (6).

Despite only having moved about 30 kilometres we are finding the change in our lives challenging and are thankful to the Lord for all the support he has given us through our adopted parish of Gawler and the community at ALC. When things get tough we find great comfort in the words of Romans 8:28: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

To conclude I would like to encourage you to pray that more people will hear and respond to God's call to serve the church; your prayers are being heard! God bless, **Michael Prenzler**.

**6** Hi my name is **Peter Klemm**, I am married to Jody and we have twin daughters Lily & Ciarna who are 15 months old.

Prior to coming to ALC we lived in Brinkworth, South Australia, which is a small farming community of 250 people. So city life is certainly different.

For the last 12 years I worked at a business in Clare that dealt in many products including fodder, petrol, batteries, paints, building



supplies and many other products for the DIY builders and 'tradies'. Jody worked as a School Chaplain before becoming a Mum.

Prior to working in Clare, I spent 4 years working in the FRM Mission store in Hermannsburg, NT. It was during this time that I first felt God calling me to pastoral ministry. In reality it has taken me a number of years to get here! We are looking forward to seeing where God leads us both now and in the future.

**7** My wife Rebecca and I, have made the move down to Sem from sunny Queensland. After moving to Brisbane in the late 90's from South Africa and marrying an Aussie wife, I left a 7 year career in Sleep Science to join the trade of Lutheran pastorage after marrying in to the Spilsbury family, who are pastors in Qld, NSW, and final year at Sem. My wife and I are looking forward to the arrival of our first little one in early July, over whom the family are already fighting regarding which sporting team he will follow...only one thing is for certain, it cannot be AFL, since the South African Springboks are not involved in this sport.

I have to admit that I do love my sport, and the few things that rank above that in life would be the God we encounter through the Bible, the gospel we see in the Bible,

my wife, family, and close friends. My passion is to be on mission for God, with my family, to his city, through the gospel.

**Roelof Buitendag**

**8** My name is **Tony Traeger** and I am the father of four children, Samuel (deceased), Jacob, Emilie and Jesse.

In 2007 as a result of a change in my family situation and employment, I felt the urge to do further study, initially completing a Diploma of Theology. On completion of that course, I felt there was more to be studied, so continued on to a Bachelor of Theology, which I completed in 2010.

For me that was the end of it – or so I thought. I felt that I had done what I had set out to do and that was that. Along the way I had been asked if the next move was the ordained ministry – to which my reply was a categorical 'NO'!

Toward the end of 2011, I accepted a job in aged care as a Chaplain. While there I felt this sense of call that was not going to go away, which I needed to go deeper and further with. As a result I am back at Australian Lutheran College undertaking further study to prepare for the ordained ministry

**9** Hi!! My name is **Benjamin Dachs** and I am from the sunshine coast in beautiful QLD.

For the last 8 years I have been working at Christian campsites in Qld, Nsw, Vic and America making the best camp food Ever ( as that is what I was always told) and hanging out and getting to know each group that came in.

The thought of applying has been weighing on me for the last few years and 3 weeks before class started I actually did it and here I am. Although I am a hands on person who doesn't sit still for more than 5 minutes I am really enjoying the class and am so excited to see what the future brings.

My favourite bible verse is Jeremiah 29:11. "I know the plans I have for you." declares the lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

**10** I am **Timothy Mills**, husband to Indigo-Pheonix and Father to 5 soon to be 6 children. I have been a stay at home Dad for the past 2 years and a salesperson for the 10 years before that. Like anyone I have been through my fair share of adversity, raised as a Lutheran by my late mother Kaye, I always kept my faith through challenging times. The call to study to become a Pastor came through discussions



11

with Indigo about God's will for us as individuals. It clicked for me when Indigo asked me "What do you think God's will is for you?" As I voiced the idea to her, the gravity of the sense of call began to take hold of me and from there we have explored this path together. We made the decision before Easter, with the help of Dr Pfeiffer and Dr Haar, to study part time for the time being to minimize the pressure on our large and young family.

## 11 Lisa Thiele

It is rewarding to work with the Youth and Young Adults here at Bethlehem in my position as Coordinator. The reason this group exists is to share the gospel, to encourage people in their faith and build unity. I value connecting with people and connecting people with each other, caring for spiritual needs, prayer and pointing people to Jesus.

I have found that the VET studies that I am undertaking at Australian Lutheran College in Certificate IV in Christian Ministry and Theology are enabling me further to develop what is important to me about ministry. I give thanks to God for allowing me to learn in this way, alongside other people with similar ministry roles. I look forward to the year ahead enhanced with these studies and seeing God working in our groups to unite us together and strengthen us in our faith.



12

Hi, I am **Ryan Norris**, I have a wonderful wife Priscilla, two children Riikka (2.5) and Caius (1) and our third is expected later this year. We moved here from Townsville, where both my wife and I were volunteering full time with Youth With A Mission (YWAM). I was involved in training, maintenance and property development. Priscilla was working in hospitality until she became a mum.

We are both true Queenslanders, having grown up in Brisbane - unfortunately that means our friends and family are all distant, but it has given us opportunity to make new friends, which we are doing rapidly.

I have come to ALC with a strong call to military chaplaincy. I know that God often starts us on our journey with the intent of changing our path along the way, so I am continuing to leave my future in his hands and concentrate on learning and growing all that I can in my time here, so that I am ready for whatever future God has planned for me.

**13 Grassroots Training** students differ from our regular students, as contact with ALC is often brief – it may be that they participate in a weekend workshop or a series of workshops held over several weeks. These participants are looking for training that is



10

accessible, meets their needs, enhances their faith and enables them to be better prepared in spreading the Gospel, yet fits in with their busy lifestyle. Here is what some of our workshop participants had to say about the training they attended recently:

*"We can take back our new knowledge and understanding about the way the devil works in our lives and how we can safeguard and protect ourselves and others. We will be more vigilant, stronger spiritually and more resilient."*

S & D Shaw, Spiritual Resilience

*"I didn't know what to expect, but found the course very valuable. I am now more aware of being accountable before God in relationships and acting out his love."*

P Zilm, Building Healthy Relationships



13



## Australian Lutheran Institute for Theology and Ethics

The Australian Lutheran Institute for Theology and Ethics (ALITE) is a new venture for ALC. It has been in the pipeline for some time as one of the four strategies in the ALC Strategic Plan, as a means of providing leadership in Lutheran theological research.

ALITE will deal with projects based in theology and ethics, and their contemporary application, to help us engage with a changing world, develop new perspectives in theology and ethics, and generate socially just and biblically informed understandings and practices.

While this sounds ambitious, the intent is for ALITE to begin, and over time make a healthy contribution to the debates and practices of the church. It hopes to engage with many 'stakeholders' in the church who have an interest in developing a greater understanding of how the church engages with the world in its many spheres of ministry. Very often we react to situations, rather than plan for them. ALITE should be able to help the LCA and its ministries do some deep and innovative thinking about being church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and what it means to be 'Lutheran' in contemporary Australia.

ALITE will also strengthen ALC's active research culture, which is a hallmark of a healthy place of learning. This is an important step in securing ALC's future as the post-secondary education provider of the Lutheran Church of Australia, offering a rich and exciting environment which grows leaders, theologians, and thinkers for the church and wider community.



The Nelson family L-R: Emily, Andrew Costin, Tania, David, Stephanie and Isaac

## Introducing Tania Nelson – New Head of the STS

My working career began in Mt Gambier teaching at the relatively new and small school of St Martin's Lutheran Primary (it was exciting to visit the school recently and see how it's grown into a thriving R-12 school). Several years later our young family moved to Adelaide where we joined the Golden Grove Lutheran community. While I was a stay-at-home mum, I joined the School Council at Golden Grove and helped establish the Playgroup and other ministry programs. Later I became a staff member at Golden Grove, teaching in Special Education and then in both the Special Ed and Deputy Principal roles.

I'm excited about joining the staff at ALC. My association with ALC is not a new one however. I boarded at Katherine Court in the 80s as a LTC student (Lutheran Teachers College) where I met my husband who was boarding at Luther Seminary. And over the years I've been a keen student and made good use of the Löhe Library resources (I'm currently studying for a Doctorate in Education). So now I'm back at ALC, looking forward to working in the tertiary education sector and wanting to get the message out that Australian Lutheran College has so much to offer, not just to potential pastors and teachers, but to the whole LCA community and beyond.

*Tania Nelson*

## Get the inside story...

ALC now has a new website, with lots of up to date information and news that you can easily access. Go to [www.alc.edu.au](http://www.alc.edu.au) and find out more.



# Vicarage – preparing for the future

Vicarage plays an important part in the Pastoral Ministry program at ALC and we are thankful to the Pastors and congregations who have provided support and a context for further ministry studies in the field to these students over the past eight and half months. Our current vicars have just returned from their placements and these were some of the comments they made about their experiences, especially as they reflect on their future vocation.

## James Leach

Our Saviour, Semaphore

*“Vicarage was both challenging and rewarding. It affirmed for me the different aspects of the pastoral ministry. I really enjoyed the opportunity to teach the faith through bible studies and confirmation class.”*

## Kees Sturm

Calvary, Glandore

*“Vicarage gave me a renewed hunger to share the truth of God’s word.”*

## Tim Spilsbury

Trinity, Pasadena

*“I felt blessed to have the opportunity to be amongst God’s people. Vicarage has made me look forward to whatever God has in store for the future.”*

## Dean Mills

St Mark, Mt Barker

*“I found vicarage a challenging and affirming experience overall. It was not the experience that I thought it would be, however it was the experience that I needed. I love being around God’s people and found it humbling seeing the power of God’s word at work in their hearts.”*

## Sam Modra

Pilgrim, Magill

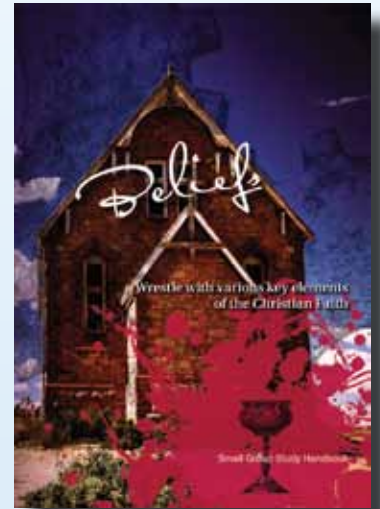
*“Thankyou to the people of Pilgrim Magill for their welcoming and encouraging words. This time was an important step on my journey to ordination and the sense of reality that I experienced was encouraging and reassuring.”*

## Joel Klein

St Johns, Demancourt

*“Vicarage was an excellent opportunity to put into practice the important things we learned before we got there! It was also an eye opener to the value of solid teaching at ALC and ongoing learning opportunities. I grew a lot on vicarage and am very thankful for the opportunity.”*

# New study guide available



*Beliefs* is the fourth of nine small group studies to be written by Grassroots Training in conjunction with subject area specialists. *Beliefs* is a course about exploring your faith and belief with a difference. *Beliefs* is built on an action-reflection learning experience.

*Beliefs* looks to unpack some key themes and topics found in the Christian faith. One way in which *Beliefs* tries to do this is by looking at one section of the Apostles Creed each session, and exploring the themes and ideas that come from that. In *Beliefs* you will journey through the Apostles Creed, discovering what it means for other Christians, but also what it means for you and your walk with Christ.

This group study (as with all of them) are designed for small groups of between 4 and 10 people, and will work in any community throughout Australia. *Beliefs* will be available from the 1st of July through Australian Church Resources 1300 36 75 75 or on the Web [www.acresources.com.au](http://www.acresources.com.au)





# Grassroots Training

Our world is increasingly ‘turned off’ by the ‘traditional’ church. People are no longer listening to its message, filtering it out of their consciousness.

It’s time to do something different. The grace of God remains true, but new expressions are needed. We must explore new ways to live the gospel in the 21st century. The theology of the church needs to be refreshed, to meet people where they are and inspire them. We need a renewed grassroots passion for Jesus! A people called by God to proclaim the goodness of Jesus Christ will rise up.

We are here to work with you, to stop the blame game, to stop doing what doesn’t work, to coordinate our approach, to lead, to usher in and to reimagine what it means to be the church and to live as the church. What worked previously is not going to work into the future. And that’s where you and Grassroots collide.

Grassroots Training is a ministry of Australian Lutheran College (ALC) that connects with everyday people of the LCA and beyond through **Workshop and Seminar Delivery**: we deliver practical training and equipping in your local area. Recent workshops have included:

- **Resource Development**: we have written four group studies that can be undertaken by a local community, in your community from an Australian viewpoint.
- **Advocacy for the ‘everyday’ Christian Person**: all the training options, equipping opportunities and programs we develop are focused upon and viewed

through the lens of the everyday Christian who has the regular life pressures that all Australians feel. We don’t shy away from this, but rather see our role as to advocate for the appropriate training and equipping needs from the perspective of the everyday Christian.

- **Personal Development Seminars**: we can customise training for churches, schools, ministries and people of the church to suit your specific context. We sit down with you and gain a clear understanding of your needs so that the equipping you receive is just what you expected. We can be flexible in this area and love a challenge!
- **VetaGold**: a program for year 12 students that is “a framework for continued discipleship during the toughest year of school” and aims to build up their faith as they explore their academic pursuits.
- **Conversation Starters and Participants**: we bring people together and explore topics of relevance both within the Lutheran church community and across denominations. We will be a ministry that listens as much as it speaks and is willing to partner with people in seeing their projects and dreams released, in all of Australia.
- **Ministry Planning**: when invited, we come to your location and local context to help evaluate your ministry, engage your strengths and work with you on building these to maximise your impact and influence in your community for God and the advancement of His Kingdom.

Grassroots Training is evolving every day to meet the needs of the local people who want to impact their community for Christ. Our church is facing many challenges. But together we can again make an impact in our world with the lifesaving work of the gospel.

If you would like to join us in shaping and being part of the future of Grassroots, host a workshop or discover your part in where God is moving, please contact us. We are here to assist you as you play your part in God’s mission as everyday people for everyday ministry.

For more information, check out our website at [www.grassroots.edu.au](http://www.grassroots.edu.au)

*Travis Doecke*  
Grassroots Coordinator

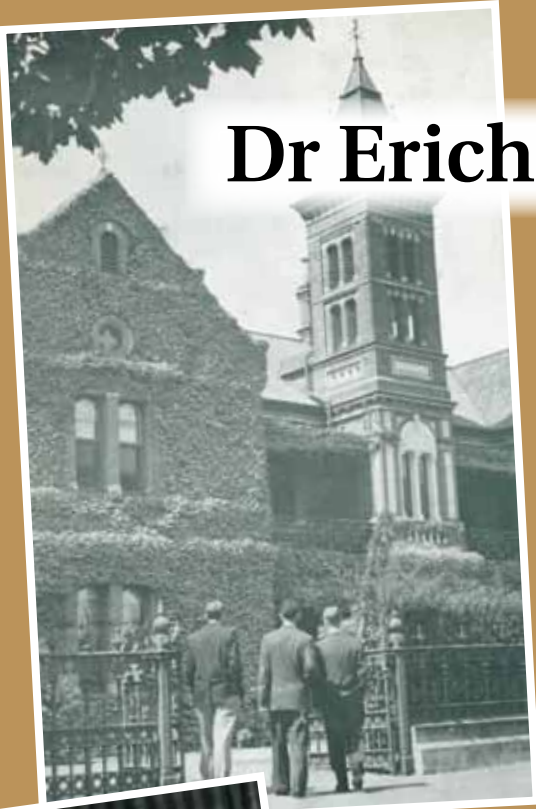
## 2012 Workshops

The following Grassroots Training workshops have been held so far this year:

- Spiritual Resilience, Parkwood, WA
- Building Healthy Relationships, Adelaide SA
- Equipping for Leadership, Pakenham VIC
- Toolkit for Ministry, Pakenham, VIC
- Leading Ministry Teams, Tanunda SA



# Dr Erich Renner turns 90!



On Friday, 4 May (two days after his actual birthday), the college community joined with Emeritus Lecturer, Dr Renner in celebrating his 90th birthday. A luncheon was held in the ALC refectory and was attended by student representatives, staff, fellow emeriti and a number of special guests.

Dr Renner's connections with ALC stem back to the days when the North Adelaide campus was Immanuel College and Seminary. He first attended here as a boarding student of the college from 1937-38, then returned the following year to study for the ministry.

On 6 February 1944, Dr Renner was ordained by his father (Rev M Renner) at Eudunda. After serving as a parish pastor for four years, he was called to teach Scripture and Classics at Immanuel College, Walkerville.

In 1955 Dr Renner went to Germany to study Hebrew and Old Testament with a view to teaching at Immanuel Seminary. Whilst in Germany, he studied under Dr Gerhard von Rad in Heidelberg, widely regarded as the best Old Testament scholar of the 20th century. He commenced lecturing upon his return to Australia in 1959. In 1968, Concordia and Immanuel Seminaries amalgamated to form 'Luther Seminary' on the North Adelaide campus. Dr Renner was one of seven founding faculty members (three lecturers were chosen from Concordia and four from Immanuel), to commence lecturing at the newly formed 'Luther Seminary', where he continued to teach up until 1991.

Even though Dr Renner has long been retired, he is still a familiar face around our campus and we welcome his regular visits, sharing of memories and fine sense of humour. On his 90th birthday, ALC honours Dr Renner as an esteemed teacher who led generations of students into the riches of the Old Testament, as a loyal colleague and true friend of the college community, and as a faithful pastor of the church – still serving, still preaching! We thank God for our elder brother and father in faith.

(To learn more about Dr Renner, visit the staff index on our new website: [www.alc.edu.au](http://www.alc.edu.au))

