

Saints Alive

News from Australian Lutheran College

Issue 2, 2012



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From the Principal

... we are workers with you for your joy, because you stand firm in the faith. (2 Cor 1:24)

Partnership has become an important word in the church – partnership with each other, between congregations, between ministries, and between denominations. These days it is considered better to do things in partnership rather than just on our own.

Partnerships are essential because they link us with the gifts God gives us in each other. In the beginning God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone..." (Gen 2:18) This remains true for us as Christians. We are never on our own – we are made for each other. This can mean more than marriage. It can be applied to the whole of our Christian life. We are always human beings in community.

Our partnerships go beyond us as individuals, to us as congregations, synod, and church. Congregations are partnerships of worshippers. Synod is a partnership of congregations. Church is a partnership of believers with Jesus Christ and with each other, called into being by God. Jesus is our first and foremost partner, and even he does not operate alone. He chooses to work with and through human beings, even to the extent

of laying aside his privilege and power, and becoming one of us.

ALC's deepest desire is to be in partnership with you. Without your partnership, we have no reason to exist. We receive our students from you, the church. They come in the name of Jesus Christ to serve the church and the world. There is no order of superiority, of one being more important than the other, or of 'lording over' each other. Jesus forbids such behaviour (see Matt 20:25, Mk 10:42 and Lk 22:35), and so do the apostles (see 1 Cor 1:24, 1 Pet 5:3). The new order of faith is this: "... whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave." (Matt 20:27)

Our partnership with you is in the gospel; that together we might know, worship, and serve our Lord more completely, with all our heart, soul, and mind. We want to live more fully in the forgiveness, renewal, and freedom we receive from God. We want to discover together, the great things God has in store for those who love him (Prov 18:20-21).

ALC has many supporters throughout the Lutheran Church of Australia, and we are hugely grateful for each one of you. We also know that we have



detractors. We need to hear from you, and we are ready to listen for what will make a truly great partnership between us. We can't respond to rumour and third hand reports. If something is wrong please help us by calling 1800 625 193 and asking for the Principal's Office, or emailing alc@alc.edu.au. Together we can do great things. Apart, we can probably do very little.

May God bless each of you in your ministry and service, and we ask that you would remember us in your prayers and with your contributions, as together we serve our Lord Jesus Christ.

John Henderson
Principal

PS If you missed our Annual Appeal in the last edition of Saints Alive and would like to support the college financially, you can still make a donation – please see back cover for information on how to donate.

Important Dates in 2013

Orientation week for new on-campus students begins Monday, 18 February 2013

The **Opening Service** will be held at 9am in the college chapel on Monday, 25 February 2013

The **Opening Lecture** will follow in the Refectory at 9.30am and will be presented by Principal, Rev John Henderson.

Semester 1: 25 February to 21 June 2013

Semester 2: 22 July to 22 November 2013

The **Valedictory Service** will be held at 7.30pm on Friday, 29 November 2013

The **Graduation Ceremony** will be held at 2pm on Saturday, 30 November 2013

If you would like to enrol to study in 2013, please complete the Expression of Interest form located on the website www.alc.edu.au. Enquiries regarding enrolments are welcome all year round.

Farewell final year SPT students!

Ken Schulz

I commenced my studies to be a Lutheran pastor as a single young man in 1978 and am finally completing this task in 2012 as a 'mature' grandfather of four (with a fifth grandchild due in the USA in January 2013). Some would say, 'better late than never'. As a student returning after many years, change is of course expected and inevitable.

When I was here previously, single pastoral students lived in Graebner Hall along with a few tertiary boarders, and only occasional female visitors were allowed - and of course, in those days, the door had to remain open throughout the visit. In 2012, Graebner Hall houses all tertiary boarders and the females occupy two of the four floors, separated from the males only by staircases. The majority of pastoral students are now married with young families.

Although the buildings are relatively unchanged, the curriculum has changed somewhat over the years. Pastoral students now complete their course over

a five year period and not seven, as when I began this journey. Students no longer have to learn Latin and only learn one language a year, not three at the same time. These are positive changes for someone wanting to be a pastor.

With my time at ALC coming to an end, Lyn and I now look forward to serving the church wherever God sees fit to place us in 2013.



Dean Mills

In some ways it seems like only yesterday that my family and I moved to Adelaide to commence studies at ALC. However when I look at my children who have grown so much in five years I am reminded that it has been a while and a lot of study has happened between then and now. Our eldest daughter, Rebecca was 14 when we arrived now she is 19, finished year 12, has her 'P's and is studying early childhood. Lauren, our second daughter (17) is doing year 11 and is also studying hospitality at TAFE and also has her 'P's. Samuel, who was three when we arrived, is almost eight. Like my family, I have also changed a lot over the past five years.

Though my time here has had its own set of challenges, like Hebrew and Greek languages, and not to mention living with teenage girls, I feel like I have been equipped in many ways. Someone asked me if I was ready to be a pastor and I replied 'no', but I'll give it a go anyway with God's help.

Our family has been both humbled and blessed by the support we have received from individuals and people in the wider church and for this we thank you. I am looking forward to the privilege of serving God's people and bringing the light of the gospel into a dark and broken world. I know that the road ahead will not always be an easy one but I am reassured, however, in taking the first steps into this new

stage of our lives, because I have the full support of my gracious wife Erika and my family.



James Leach

As someone who is not a natural born student, undertaking a five year course has not been easy – to say the least.

Now, five years after commencing this academic venture, I have learnt a few things:

1. I am not an academic;
2. I don't actually know everything;
3. The lecturers here actually have something worth listening to... (Wish I had listened more in the first couple years).
4. No matter how hard or how far I run, I cannot escape the love of God.

Of all the things that ALC gives to its students, the one thing I will cherish and miss when I leave this place, is the companionship. The brothers and



sisters in Christ that I have worked and studied with over these past years have been an amazing support and growing tool for my life. God has blessed me and my family immensely through the people he has placed here with us and we are forever grateful.



Sam Modra

God works in mysterious ways. A farmer's only son would be expected to have an interest in taking over the family farm but when he starts high school saying he wants to be a Lutheran pastor that is an unlikely prospect.

When the eldest of four girls meets a young man at a party and tells him how she plans to become a highly paid engineer and not get married until she is thirty, she is surprised when she is married at 21, has two kids by 26 and her husband is ordained in the year she turns 30.

Parents hope and expect to have healthy children but God teaches them love, acceptance and a serving heart when their child is born with a condition that doctors have not even identified.

Students who enrol to study as pastors at ALC expect to finish in five years, but apparently some of us (as was the case with me) need longer to be formed than others.

These are just some of the ways that God has worked in the lives of Sam, Tara, Johan and Ruby Modra.



Kees Sturm

As I come up to graduation and ordination, I have been asked to take a moment to reflect on the time that I have spent at ALC.

The beginning of my studies at ALC seems like such a long time ago now but it also feels like time has just raced passed. During my time at ALC, Narelle and I have faced many challenges and changes. The biggest challenge we faced was my return to full time study after 15+ years as a mechanic and the most rewarding change is the birth of our two boys Alexander (2 ½) and Eli (8 months).

I feel privileged to have studied at ALC and I know that I have grown immensely in my biblical and theological knowledge. Through my studies, the fieldwork and vicarage, I have come to see the assurance of God's Word in our lives, the importance of the means of grace for the consolation of the soul, and the importance of sharing the gospel message with others.



Tim Spilsbury

I still remember vividly one afternoon in January 2007 as I walked into Brisbane Airport. The beginning of this journey was an exciting one as I stepped into the unknown. I was only 23 years old with little more than a suitcase packed with clothes and a mind filled with expectations of what my time in Adelaide studying at ALC would be like.

Over five years later as this journey is quickly coming to an end, I have the opportunity to reflect on my experience in this place: what I have learnt, the

ways I have changed and how I have grown. It has been a journey filled with affirmation and exhilarating highs. I have met and fallen in love with my amazing wife Lauren. I have had the joy of new relationships with people I greatly admire and care for as I have shared life with them, growing and learning from them. I have had the absolute privilege to spend so much time studying God's word and ask the question how I can serve his people.

But it has also been a time of sobering realities. I've had to recognise the difficulties that exist in communal life and the struggles that my fellow brothers and sisters in the faith face every day. God's Word while a source of joy has also done its painful work in me tearing down false expectations making me recognise the realities of life as a follower of Jesus. I have learned and developed so much but I have also recognised just how much more still I have to learn and grow.

As I reflect on the past I do so while also looking toward the future, and I find myself again filled with excitement but also uncertainty and trepidation. But as I do I am reminded by God's love which has been shown to me by his people in my journey past and present. And it is that love which gives me strength and courage as I prepare to step once again into the unknown and the new journey that awaits.

Joel Klein

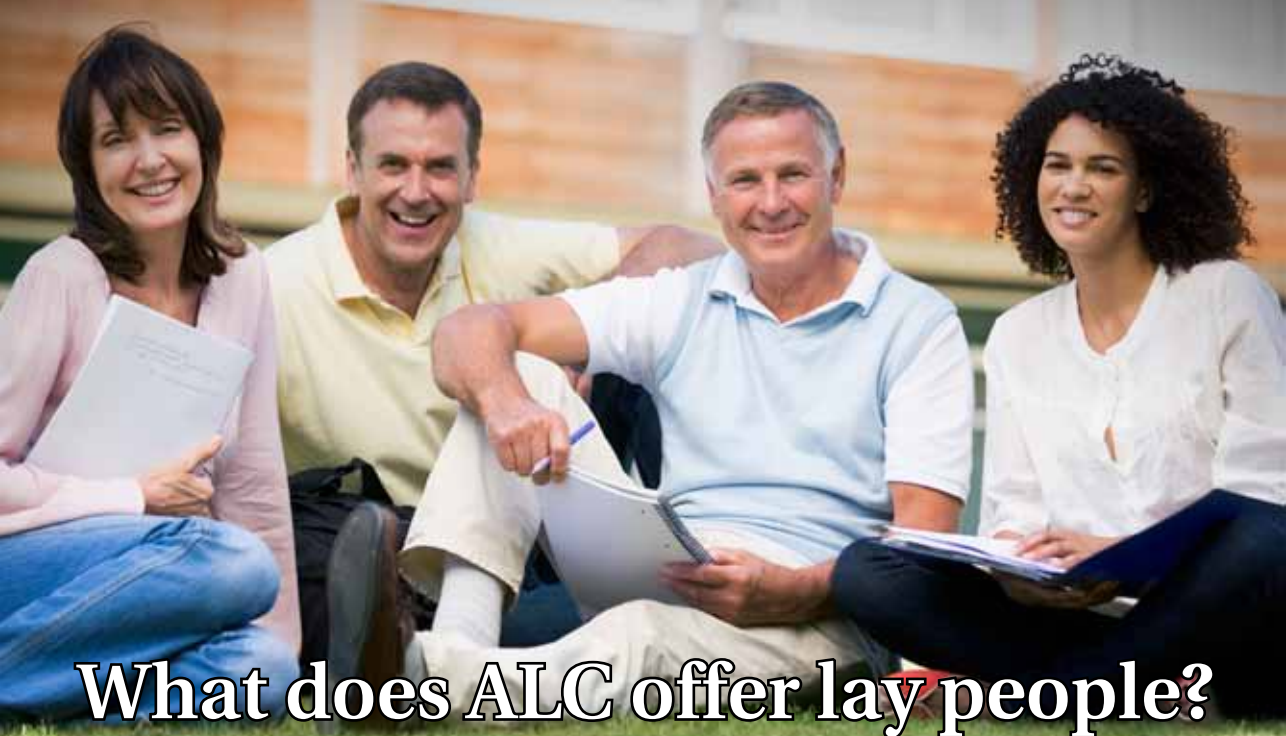
Five years can seem like a long time, but there are times when this journey has seemed like a blink of an eye.

We left our home in WA and our family and friends and took only what we could fit in a trailer and our dual cab ute. Half way to Adelaide, we had a rollover (you could say we 'rolled' everything on this path!) and we left even more behind, but we haven't, even at the most difficult times, regretted the decision. There have been extremely difficult times, and there have been times of great joy, but for all the experiences, we can say quite honestly, that it has been a journey of growth – in faith and knowledge.

We have been supported by faculty, staff and fellow students over this time, and we have been privileged to have opportunities to support others who have shared our journey. I have become increasingly confident in God's grace and love towards us, and have come to realise that being a messenger of the Gospel is a profound



and humbling call – one that I cannot ever be fully equipped for, because thankfully, this is God's work. We look forward with excitement to continuing to grow to be a useful tool in God's hand, in sharing with and caring for His people, through His word in His church.



What does ALC offer lay people?

The School of Theological Studies (STS) provides study opportunities for a wide range of students, including people who wish to follow a particular vocational pathway for work in the church, and those who want to study theology for personal interest and enjoyment. STS also oversees *Grassroots Training*.

Students in STS may complete a *Certificate IV in Christian Ministry and Theology* (30772QLD)*, the one-year *Diploma in Theology* that may be a general or specialised program, the three-year *Bachelor of Theology*, or the three-year *Bachelor of Ministry*. Students who meet the entrance requirements may also enrol in a *Graduate Certificate in Theology*, a general or specialised *Graduate Diploma in Theology*, or the *Master of Arts (Theology)*.

I am excited to share with you a new initiative from Australian Lutheran College (ALC). ALC now offers the **Certificate IV in Christian Ministry & Theology** (30772QLD) in a format that students can complete in less than 12 months!

The Cert IV CMT (30772QLD) is a foundational qualification for LCA church workers. It meets the Board for Lay Ministry's baseline criteria for accreditation for lay workers and gives the student both a theological knowledge and a broad range of practical, personal ministry skills.

ALC will be offering the nine units that make up

the Cert IV CMT (30772QLD) as **intensives** in two locations in 2013:

- Adelaide (at ALC, North Adelaide) or
- Brisbane (St Paul's Lutheran Church, Nundah, Brisbane).

The intensive format is perfect for lay people who are beginning their ministry journey, for students who are taking a Gap Year before commencing tertiary studies, for the dedicated who wish to train in Christian Ministry before entering the 'mission field', and for the studious who want to sample the study of theology and ministry.

The intensives have also been arranged so that students and participants can pick and choose from the intensive menu. Individuals can arrange to attend one, two, three workshops either for credit (as a student) or purely out of interest (for non-students, no assessment required).

I commend to you ALC's Cert IV CMT (30772QLD) and ask that you encourage others to 'Encounter the Essentials.' For further information about study at ALC, or to receive the enrolment package, please contact the School of Theological Studies on sts@alc.edu.au or free call 1800 625 193.

Tania Nelson

Head of School of Theological Studies

*ALC is a partner in the Australian College of Ministries training network RTO # 90965

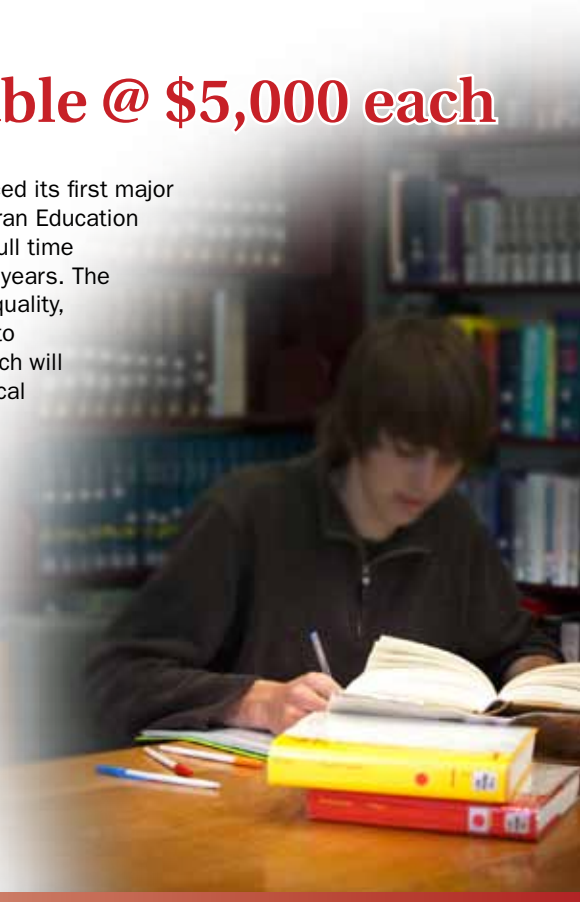
Research grants available @ \$5,000 each

The new Australian Institute for Theology and Ethics (ALITE) at ALC offers our church offers our church a chance to better understand who we are and how we relate to our world. It engages qualified researchers to ask the important questions about the ministry of the LCA, particularly through its schools, aged and community care, ordained ministry, lay workers, and congregations.

To promote its launch ALITE is offering a limited number of \$5,000 grants for short-term research projects. If you have a project in mind and would like to apply for a grant, go to **www.alite.alc.edu.au** to apply on line, or contact the Director of ALITE, Dr Stephen Hultgren at alite@alc.edu.au.

ALITE recently announced its first major partnership with Lutheran Education Australia to engage a full time research officer over 2 years. The aim is to provide high quality, accessible research into Lutheran schooling which will be of immediate practical benefit to schools and equip them better for longer term planning. ALITE is open to forming partnerships with any church group wanting to be involved in research for its ministry area providing adequate funding can be arranged.

To find out how you could be involved see **www.alite.alc.edu.au**.



Encounter the Essentials!

Want training for lay ministry that is practical and personal?

Why not study for a Certificate IV in Christian Ministry & Theology (30772QLD)* through Australian Lutheran College?

Features include:

- Exploring God's word
- Gaining theological knowledge
- Learning about relationships, leadership, peacemaking, and our spiritual identity in Christ
- Discovering practical and personal ministry skills

The Certificate IV CMT (30772QLD) has been designed as a foundational qualification for church and ministry workers in a range of fields, and from 2013 you will be able to complete it in less than 12 months.

For further information or to receive the enrolment package please contact the School of Theological Studies on **sts@alc.edu.au**, (08) 8267 7400, Freecall 1800 625 193.

ALC is the post secondary education provider of the Lutheran Church of Australia. Often known as 'the Sem', for many years ALC has been providing a wide range of ministry training. In 2010 ALC began offering Vocational Education and Training packages, such as the Cert IV. ALC is calling you to **Encounter the Essentials!**



*ALC is a partner in the Australian College of Ministries training network (RTO # 90965)





From America to a land down under

Stephen Hultgren

If someone had told me a year ago that my family and I would now find ourselves living and working in Adelaide, Australia, I doubt that I would have believed it. But then sometimes—often, in fact—God calls people to places where they would never have expected to go.

It almost did not happen. When I was invited to present a paper at the LCA Hermeneutics Symposium in Tanunda in October, 2011, I almost declined the invitation because of competing obligations. In the end, however, I decided to come to Tanunda, and I am glad that I did; for at the time I was looking for and open to a new call, and the relationship that was established with the LCA at Tanunda opened the way. Coincidence?

It is sometimes said that there are “no coincidences with God.”

Well, as Christians we are not fatalists, but we do believe in God’s providence, which works through both good and evil to bring about his ultimately good will. As St. Paul says, for those who love him, all things work together for the good (Rom 8:28). In this case, I believe that what brought the LCA and me together was our shared love for the Word of God and our shared commitment to the Lutheran Confessions. Together we trust that this new partnership will be for the good of ALC and the LCA, for me and my family’s good, and for the good of God’s gospel and God’s church.

Our move to Adelaide represents a new challenge for me. After a number of years teaching in a general undergraduate, university environment, the opportunity to teach students preparing for the Lutheran ministry is a welcome change.

As the son of a Lutheran pastor and theologian, and coming from many generations of Lutherans, I feel like I have been long prepared for such a role. After receiving a B.A. in Classics from Gustavus Adolphus College (St. Peter, MN, USA), I received my M.Div. from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN (USA). Along the way I studied for one year as an exchange student in theology at the University of Tübingen in Germany, and I also completed an internship (vicarage) at the Baudette Lutheran Parish in northern Minnesota. Then it was off to Duke University (Durham, North Carolina) to earn a Ph.D. in New Testament studies.

In 2004 I began teaching (mostly undergraduates) in the Department of Theology at Fordham University (New York). Undergraduate education in the United States is somewhat different from Australia, since



Stephen with his wife Heidi and children Hans Christian and Matthias

in the USA an undergraduate typically spends one half or even more of his/her studies outside of the major discipline. Consequently, I mostly taught undergraduates who were not studying theology as a major discipline and who mostly were not interested in the subject. The opportunity now to teach students who are committed to theology and preparation for the ministry is welcome. Also in 2004 I was ordained to the ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and served for almost three years as pastor of St. Thomas Lutheran Church (Nyack, New York). This was a very fulfilling experience, and I learned much about preaching, about being a pastor, and about myself.

Some people ask about “culture shock.” Of course there are things that are different in Australia, but many things are also familiar. Learning differences

in the language has been one of the more interesting things. I recently had to ask what a “furphy” is! But both my wife Heidi and I are international people and have lived in many different places.

Although I come most recently from the New York metropolitan area, I grew up in Minnesota in the Midwest of the United States. Heidi, a Norwegian citizen, was born in Oslo, but she grew up in Papua New Guinea, where her parents were Bible translators—so it is back to the Asia-Pacific region for her—and received her undergraduate education in the United States (Houghton College, New York). (I am blessed to have married a woman who would so willingly move to the other side of the world with me!) Heidi is a primary school teacher by vocation. We met in 2005 in New York City, where she was a Fulbright Scholar and M.A.

student in literacy education at Columbia University Teachers College, and were married in 2006. In the last six years we have spent considerable time in the USA, Norway, and Germany, and we feel that we adapt easily. As today's Australia is very much a land of immigrants, there is much that is reminiscent of America but also of Europe. We have two sons, Matthias Ansgar (5) and Hans Christian (3), who are also getting to experience the world. A third child is expected in January or February.

We are very grateful for the warm reception that we have received here in Adelaide! We look forward to getting to know more of this big country and its unique aspects. We look forward also to learning more about ALC and the LCA, and we look forward to our partnership in the gospel!



SMP training for a changing church

We descended on Adelaide from Far North Queensland and elsewhere in the Sunshine State; from the coldest Australian parish and from a lovely beach resort in NSW; from over the sea came one from the east (who keep winning the Rugby); from the farthest reaches of South Australia and from the central deserts of the Australian outback; and I came from the Goldfields of Western Australia. We all have different backgrounds, and many have different cultures and preach in different languages, and yet we have so much in common. We have all come to ALC for a week's worth of SMP Training!

What is an SMP? Well, it stands for Specific Ministry Pastor. SMP's are ordained Pastors working in a specific ministry area such as in a remote congregation (which perhaps cannot afford a Pastor); in a culture/language-specific area such as our Chinese and Aboriginal Pastors; with a specific group such as the elderly; as part of a Pastoral Team in a Church and many other situations. The training ALC offers, is aimed at those who are already ordained as an SMP, as well as those of us on the path to ordination.

For our training in August 2012, we were very blessed to have Pastor Bob Kempe spend the week with us, looking at Pastoral Care. A variety of topics were

covered ie 'What is Pastoral Care?', 'Knowing our Limitations', Visitation, Sickness, Death and Grieving – just to name a few. Pastor Bob was very accommodating to us and he happily extended the time spent in areas where we needed more discussion. Naturally, we only scratched the surface of this important area, but Pastor Bob gave us many insights, as well as many valuable resources for further reading.

Many of my fellow students spend a great deal of time in pastoral care. Some of us, however, work full-time outside of the ministry – and this offers some great challenges to the area of pastoral care. One in particular, is the mistaken concept that only pastors can provide pastoral care – so we must encourage and educate our congregations in this area as well.

As part of our week at ALC, we also get the opportunity to sit in on a couple of lectures with the 'regular pastoral students'. I really enjoy those times – not only for the material covered – but getting to know the full-time students, many of who are the pastors of tomorrow.

Whilst I truly enjoy the academic environment and all that I learn, I think I get an even greater benefit from the fellowship. Building new and ongoing relationships with fellow SMPs

– some who are in a similar situation to me, and others in very different situations, is important to me. I learn much and am encouraged greatly by my brothers. The fellowship we receive from the ALC staff and students is also very much appreciated. I eagerly look forward to my 2 visits to ALC in 2013 (if the Lord so will).

And who am I, you might wonder, writing this article? I am from St Paul's Lutheran Church in Kalgoorlie-Boulder (600 Km from the Indian Ocean and 400km from the Southern Ocean, a gold and nickel mining town of over 30,000 people) and we are a part of the Esperance Parish – so, yes, 400 km between our two Congregations. I have been preaching my own sermons here since 1995 and have been licensed to give Communion since 2002. Pastor Adrian Kramer comes up from Esperance once a month and we also have some Lay Readers - so services are able to be held every Sunday. I am 51 and have been happily married to Karen for 27 years, and we have two boys – one in Perth studying Chemical Engineering at UWA and one still with us in Year 9. Karen and I work full time in our family business and I am a Software Developer. Our family business gives us the flexibility to fit in our Church commitments.

Glenn Crouch

Teaching bush style – a never to be forgotten experience



Photo courtesy of Ray Morris

During the recent bush course hosted by FRM, August 26-31, camping out near Papunya (250 km west of Alice Springs), ALC lecturer, Pastor Stephen Pietsch presented seven sessions on 'comforting God's people', looking at several different theological and practical aspects of pastoral care and comfort: caring for the grieving, helping the guilty and ashamed, visiting and comforting the sick etc.

The gathering was attended by approximately 25 indigenous pastors from the FRM regions of central Australia, one of them walking for about two days to the camp after his car broke down on the way! FRM support workers, Pastors Rob Borgas, Ray Morris and Paul Traeger ably facilitated the week's study, assisted by FRM manager, Brenton Schild, who acted as cook.

The theology-practice of Christian comfort came into focus very sharply during the week because of a 'sorry camp' being held near Papunya for the family of a young child who had recently been tragically killed in a car accident. This is a strong cultural and spiritual practice among the central Australian indigenous people. It provides a time and space for

the extended family to come together and grieve and support one another. The bush course pastors, support workers and Stephen visited the sorry camp on the Wednesday morning, when one of the pastors conducted a special liturgy of word, prayer and preaching for the grieving family.

The week was made more special yet by a visit from a retired Lutheran couple from Burnie in Tasmania, Geoff and Barbara Starick, who came to offer their support and encouragement by presenting all the campers with 'baptismal beanies' – knitted and sewn beanies, each with a cross marked on the front.

The camp became a colourful place - psychedelic yellow and orange beanies could be seen moving around, even in the dark!

Camping in the vastness of the red centre was a new and discovery-laden experience for Stephen, who enjoyed the silence, space and peace of the landscape. His strongest impression is the spiritual joy, faithfulness and strength of the aboriginal pastors, and the huge sense of privilege he has from having spent time with them.

History of Christianity is His-story



I am often asked about what we study at ALC and why. Here's an opportunity for you to get some insight into both of these questions, in what is the first in a series of student authored articles tracking various parts of our course to give readers a greater appreciation of what goes into studying for the ordained ministry in the Lutheran Church of Australia. This edition of *Saints Alive* looks at our study of the history of Christianity.

We study a lot of Christian History at ALC – in fact 25 per cent of our study load over the first two years. Why? Perhaps it is best answered with reference to renowned international Lutheran historian Rev Prof Martin Marty who emphasizes that 'His-Story' – the story of God's Word made flesh in the person of Jesus Christ who has bought salvation through his atoning death and shown he is Lord through his resurrection – is our story. In essence, we need to clearly understand how the Word has worked in the world, or been ignored, up to this point in history where Jesus Christ is to be spoken and received today.

Against this background we undertake four main history subjects. They cover:

- 1) the early and medieval church up to the Reformation;
- 2) the European reformations;
- 3) Australian Christianity and Lutheranism; and
- 4) global Christianity (everything not covered elsewhere).

There have been many highlights, but briefly some include: engaging with the heaving and persecution of the early church; the advantages and disadvantages of receiving state recognition in 324 AD; feeling

the regret and revulsion of violent acts such as the crusades being undertaken in Christ's name; stepping into Luther's inch by inch struggle as he comes to his reformation breakthrough; and coming to terms with the diversity within Christianity, seen for example by studying the history of Christianity in what is now known as the United States.

What about Australia? We take a good look at both Lutheranism and other denominations. The Lutheran component is enhanced by a number of field excursions, for example to Schurmann and Teichelmann's first Lutheran mission to Aborigines on the River Torrens at Piltawodli, and a day in the Barossa, including as guests of the Bethany congregation for lunch and, true to form, a nice wine! But talk of

wine aside, and demonstrating why the study and appreciation of church history is so important, it's sobering to stand on the grounds of the Bethany church and reflect on the 1846 split of the Lutheran church that took place there, knowing it took 120 years to reunite. Amongst other things, it gives a very real sense of the frailty of human interventions and the need to never take church unity for granted. And these sort of moments and reflections occur throughout the history courses we complete.

Helping to make these courses so good is the way essay assessments are set. From a long list we are able to choose a topic of our interest and work in depth – 'inquiry based learning' par excellence! For those of you wondering if this



creates a few learning gaps elsewhere, rest assured that the final exam covers everything! Another highlight is the modern educational resources in this area, including good DVD documentaries - material that could easily be put to use in congregational and school settings. And as usual, the Löhe library has no shortage of material – a legacy from the past and a responsibility for the future!



All of this is engineered by our extremely dedicated and knowledgeable teacher, Rev Dr Dean Zweck (above), who is continually on the look out for the best way to bring history 'alive'. Because we are blessed to have experienced yet well educated pastors as lecturers at ALC, there is often a seamless application of our learning to its parish context, even when studying history. For this we are grateful, and we ask the LCA to pray that this situation will continue.

Now back to essay writing ...

Matthew Bishop
2nd year student,
School of Pastoral Theology

Next time: It's all Greek to me.

Left: History class excursion to Lutheran Archives.

North Adelaide redevelopment

The October issue of *The Lutheran* reported on a major property redevelopment in North Adelaide being proposed for the 2013 General Convention of Synod.

The current campus of Australian Lutheran College sits at the centre of the proposal, and it will have a significant impact on our facilities. Debate on such a large financial undertaking is likely to be vigorous, but the proposal is likely to benefit ALC in a number of ways:

- The cost of maintaining the current facilities is very high, and out of proportion to the size of our student body. The new facility promises to be much more efficient.
- The learning and teaching spaces and provision of technology in the proposal is vastly improved over current arrangements.
- The purpose built nature of the facilities will augment greater student and staff interaction, and foster a creative and collaborative learning environment.
- ALC will be able to conveniently host larger gatherings such as intensives, summer/winter schools workshops, training events, seminars, and conferences.
- ALC is adopting a contemporary distributed learning system for online and remote learning. Having an up to date facility from which to operate will complement this development.
- The new facility will assist ALC focus on its 'core business' as the LCA assumes responsibility for some things that are currently part of ALC's day to day operations.
- ALC looks forward to being able to renew partnerships with local ministries, particularly the North Adelaide congregation, through access to the new worship centre and other facilities.

As always there are costs to any improvement:

- Part of ALC's physical identity has been what is affectionately called the 'old building' or Hebart Hall, purchased by the UELCA in 1922. While this building would remain, it would no longer be the central hub for ALC operations.
- ALC would be unlikely to be able to continue with the tertiary boarding operation for local university and TAFE students. No decision has been made on that as yet.
- There would be significant impact on individual staff persons at ALC who fulfil functions which may or may not be part of the new development, and we are awaiting many decisions in relation to these issues.

To those outside South Australia, or who have never visited North Adelaide, these changes might not seem to matter. In terms of ALC's viability and sustainability, however, they can make a significant difference. We invite your prayers during this process that tertiary theological training in the LCA might not only survive, but flourish.



Volunteers – What would we do without them?

Users of Löhe Memorial Library do not often see some hardworking volunteer workers who have served the library for many years.

Chris Cooper (pictured at right with his wife Marlene) began work here 22 years ago – to help with the integration of the Lutheran Teachers' College Library – and has sorted through thousands of books donated over that time. Chris has saved the library staff countless hours by working through the boxes of books that arrive, particularly from pastors' libraries and has been in charge of organizing library book sales.

Marlene Cooper has volunteered since her retirement as a lecturer at Luther Seminary. She has retyped some valuable old theses into digital copies of these works. She and Chris have borrowed many books from the library to use in their charming custom of reading aloud to each other.

The specialty of Owen Altus, another of our volunteers, is to find where bookshelves are getting tight and to rearrange them. He has moved every

book and periodical volume in the library sometime during his nearly twenty years of service. When the library security system was installed he and a team of volunteers from Pasadena placed security strips in every book in the main collection and every periodical volume – a collection numbering over 100,000 items. Owen continues to come every Monday morning to 'strip' the new books.

Noel Weiss and Vic Pfitzner, both retired lecturers, have helped by sorting through books printed in the old German script. They have helped us sift the wheat from the chaff of nineteenth century sermon books, devotionals and theological treatises.

We thank them all for their cheerful service!

Trevor Schaefer



Women's Auxiliary – volunteers with a difference

Several times a year this small group of dedicated women gather at ALC. They are volunteers, acting on behalf of the hundreds of Lutheran Women of Australia, who voluntarily raise funds for projects at ALC.

The Women's Auxiliary is an auxiliary of the Lutheran Women of Australia (LWA). It disburses funds for minor repairs and replacement of equipment and furnishings at ALC. In order to do this, the Women's Auxiliary receives a generous grant from the Lutheran Women of Australia. The Women's Auxiliary then works in close cooperation with representatives of the College (the Principal, Business Manager, Maintenance Manager and a member of the student community), in order to decide which projects to support.

Projects which have been undertaken around the college in recent years as a result of the LWA's generous support include:

- placement of new signage
- upgrading the Student Centre
- provision of a new fence for the on-campus children's playground
- removal of a gum tree from the playground for safety reasons
- resurfacing of the tennis court
- installing new door locks in all boarding houses

- stripping and polishing unit kitchen floors
- painting of townhouses
- installing several new stoves and refurbishing kitchens in Catherine Court units
- replacing curtains and tracks in the Archer Street units

In addition to these projects, the LWA through the Women's Auxiliary, have provided new altar cloths and additional worship resources for use in the college chapel.

ALC and the members of the Womens Auxiliary would like to sincerely thank the Lutheran Women of Australia, who through their persistent fundraising efforts and financial support, enable the ongoing maintenance and upgrade of facilities at ALC to continue.

Christa Dahms



In Memorium – Rachel Wilhelm

Staff and students of ALC mourn the recent passing of Rachel Wilhelm.

Rachel was the Administrator for the School of Pastoral Theology. As the first point of contact for prospective and long-term students studying for the ordained ministry, Rachel was a welcoming presence. The lolly jar, which she kept on her desk, enticed many a visitor (both young and old) into her office, and provided colleagues with an excuse to visit for a brief chat and sugar fix. The classical music drifting from Rachel's office, was an uplifting sound within the hallowed hallway of Hebart Hall's downstairs west wing.

Community worship played an important part in Rachel's life at ALC. As a regular attender, Rachel took it upon herself to ensure that worship was always accompanied by an arrangement of fresh flowers. Towards the end of her struggle with illness, Rachel managed (with the help of her dedicated

parents) to attend chapel at the college for one last time. Here she expressed her gratitude to the college community for their ongoing prayers and support and made known her thankfulness to God for his constant care of her. It seemed fitting, that as part of this last visit, Rachel brought along with her, a lovely bunch of flowers for the chapel.

Rachel passed away peacefully on Friday, 5 October, assured of God's promise of eternal life.

(Front cover image painted by Rachel's uncle – Geoff Thiele)



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