

AUGUST 2015

# SAINTsalive

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIAN LUTHERAN COLLEGE

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of our *partnership* in the gospel. PHIL 1:3-5



## Partners



# Partners

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gospel PHIL 1:3-5



Pastor James Windertich  
PRINCIPAL

Earlier this year I attended the Lutheran Church of Australia's (LCA) National Youth Forum, organised by Grow Ministries. The small group of vibrant and enthusiastic young Lutheran people, handpicked from all over Australia, were itching to become more fully involved in the life of their church.

My job was to explain to them the role ALC plays in the life of the LCA/NZ. I had fun explaining that ALC exists in partnership with the whole church, not only to provide tertiary-level training for the parish workers, teachers and pastors of the LCA, but also to support local mission and ministry through Grassroots Training.

I was quickly reminded of how good young people are at asking questions—especially when it came to my job. They wanted to know what the principal of ALC does. I had to think carefully and quickly. I didn't want to spurt out a whole lot of institutional slogans that would make no sense at all. This is what I said to them:

**My job is to get ALC ready for you.**

That's it. ALC exists for the people of the church. As ALC exists to partner with, support and resource the mission and ministry of the LCA, my job is to be in a constant conversation with our congregations, districts and agencies, so that our partnerships will be appropriately shaped and directed. We all need to listen to each other, and we can't expect anyone to automatically know who we are and what we do.

In the past, ALC might have been seen as somewhat removed from people's daily lives in the LCA; that ALC existed only to train special groups of people. While it is true that ALC does provide tertiary-level specific training for the many and diverse people who will serve in and through the LCA, we offer much, much more. We are rich with resources that can benefit congregations, schools, aged and community-care facilities, zones and districts.

We have a huge library with a collection that is moving more and more towards electronic resources. This collection is available to everyone, not just our students. We have a diverse range of courses and learning opportunities that support mission and ministry at the local level. We also have students who study with us out of general interest. They are people who want to season their local community through their own life in faith, without taking on formal leadership or professional roles. They simply want to grow, and we want to make sure that ALC is ready for them all—and for you, according to your needs.

We want to partner with you, to offer you the things you might struggle to provide for yourself, and together we might just discover that we already have all that we need to serve ... together.

# STRONG

Bind us together Lord,  
bind us together with cords  
that cannot be broken.  
Bind us together Lord,  
bind us together,  
bind us together with love.

When Bob Gillman  
wrote this simple but profound song,  
I'm sure he was thinking of Ecclesiastes 4:12:

by Tania Nelson

## 'A THREEFOLD CORD IS NOT QUICKLY BROKEN'.

As I reflect on Australian Lutheran College and our part in the LCA/NZ, I see our college as a strong strand in a cord. Strong. Perhaps you have many adjectives to describe ALC, but 'strong' is surprising. You may have heard talk of ALC's aging buildings and rising debt. Or you're concerned over the small number of pastoral graduates and an aging profile of LCA pastors. Perhaps your perception is that ALC's teaching is too liberal, or too conservative, for your taste.

## STRONG?

ALC is indeed strong. Our strength comes from the Lord of heaven and earth. I view ALC's strength as one strand of a cord—a cord made up of partners that are irrevocably bound together with us. If we see ALC as one strand of a plaited cord, we can see how LCA/NZ congregations and our LCA's lay ministry, child and family ministry, local and overseas mission departments, among many other partners, each intertwine with us.

Nevin Nitschke, LCA Director of Lay Ministry, values highly the partnership between ALC and the Lay Ministry Department. 'Our teams get together regularly to talk about how ALC's Certificate IV units can be fine-tuned and made even more relevant to the needs of lay workers in the field across Australia and New Zealand', he says. 'These meetings provide feedback for our staff and also give us opportunity for mutual ministry support. Tania Nelson is a consultant on the Board for Lay Ministry; her enthusiasm, skills and knowledge help us to develop further streams of study for our lay workers.'

'Our partnership with ALC is strong, effective and highly valued.'

ALC cannot exist without the support of LCA congregations and parishes either. You support us with your prayers. You provide us with much-needed funds. You promote our higher education and vocational education courses. You participate in our Grassroots Training workshops and the online training we offer. You ask us to provide ministry training that is customised to your needs. Thank you for the part you play in making ALC strong.

I pray that ALC, in partnership with you and many others, will continue to 'grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen' (2 Peter 3:18).

**Tania Nelson is Head of the School of Theological Studies.**

## Partners

To find out more about how ALC can support your ministry training needs:  
[www.alc.edu.au](http://www.alc.edu.au) | Freecall 1800 625 193 | [alc@alc.edu.au](mailto:alc@alc.edu.au)

To find out more about Lay Ministry:  
[www.lca.org.au/board-for-lay-ministry.html](http://www.lca.org.au/board-for-lay-ministry.html) | 08 8267 7300  
[layministry@lca.org.au](mailto:layministry@lca.org.au)

Cover photo: ALC  
boarding Seniors  
participating in leadership  
training facilitated by  
Grassroots Training in  
2015.

**SAINTS**alive  
a periodical of  
Australian Lutheran College

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stories by Australian  
Lutheran College  
edited and designed by  
LCA Communications  
printed by Openbook  
Howden Design & Print



Australian Lutheran College  
is the training institution  
of the Lutheran Church of  
Australia and a college of  
the University of Divinity.







# Congregational Leadership Training ...partnering with you.

Behind every growing congregation is a strong leadership team.

Perhaps your team is called the church council, or admin team, or board for ministry. They do the behind-the-scenes work, often unseen and unrecognised, in order for other parts of the body to shine. They are people like you.

Perhaps you know how to do your job well; perhaps you don't. Perhaps you used to know how to do your job, but with all the changes in legislation and compliance over the years, you're not so sure any more.

To support and equip people like you for the important job you do, Grassroots Training (a ministry of Australian Lutheran College) has developed an online program called Congregational Leadership Training. It addresses two key objectives of the LCA Strategic Direction 2013–2018:

- improve capability and performance of congregational leaders
- ensure effective governance at the congregational level.

Congregational Leadership Training starts with 'Foundations', an introductory unit for all your office-holders and leaders. There are also specific units for chairpersons, treasurers and secretaries. And because Congregational Leadership Training is delivered online, you can start anytime, anywhere. You can register right now if you like, at

[www.grassroots.edu.au/clt](http://www.grassroots.edu.au/clt)



## Congregational Leadership Training

Phone: 1800 625 193

Email: [grassroots@alc.edu.au](mailto:grassroots@alc.edu.au)

Web: [www.grassroots.edu.au/clt](http://www.grassroots.edu.au/clt)



## It's all about teamwork!

*The SHWALLY and Lutheran Youth of Malaysia teams join up to work with Malaysia's indigenous people, the Orang Asli. SHWALLY engaged Grassroots Training to help them prepare for the trip and for a debrief session afterwards.*

by Emma Graetz

grassroots

Before ten enthusiastic young people headed off to Malaysia in September last year, they needed to do one important thing—grow together as a team. So the SHWALLY team (Spring Head, Woodside and Lobethal Lutheran Youth) asked Grassroots Training to lead them through a series of team-building activities to prepare them for the mission ahead.

Supported and encouraged by LCA Mission International, the SHWALLY team has been partnering with Lutheran Youth of Malaysia for some years, especially in their work with the Orang Asli (indigenous Malaysian) people. While there were some old hands, most members of the 2014 team were new to overseas ministry.

'We invited Grassroots Training to conduct the team building because we knew that it would be professional', SHWALLY mission team leader Erin Kerber said. 'Also, because it is a training organisation within the Lutheran Church, we could trust them to have theological integrity.'

The training included: building up and supporting the team, personality types, effective communication, how to deal with stress, and spending time with God while away.

'We enjoyed [Grassroots Training Coordinator] Emma's relaxed approach to the training, which suited the members of our group', Erin said. 'She showed a genuine interest in each of us and what we were going to do. For me as team leader, it was especially good to have more of an idea about people's personalities, how they coped with stress and what their love language is. This allowed me to increase

their enjoyment while in Malaysia and deal with any tension immediately when it arose.'

The mission group also asked Grassroots Training back to do a debrief of their trip when they returned to Australia. This allowed the participants to reflect on their time away and speak openly with each other about their experience.

'The training set us up for good team cohesion and communication during the trip', Erin said. 'It helped us immensely to have a professional, external to the group, demonstrate to us the importance of team work, backed up by the team's willingness to cooperate and put Emma's suggestions into practice while in Malaysia.'

'I highly recommend the training to other ministry groups; in fact, all groups within the church. It helped us to understand potential issues that may come up in a group environment when travelling together and gave everyone a chance to find out more about their fellow group members in a very structured way, while also having a lot of fun. It was very relevant to our situation.'

**Emma Graetz is ALC's Grassroots Training Coordinator.**

## Partners

To find out more about how Grassroots Training can support your ministry group training needs:

[www.grassroots.edu.au](http://www.grassroots.edu.au) | 1800 625 193

To find out more about overseas ministry partnerships,

contact LCA Mission International:

[www.lcamission.org.au](http://www.lcamission.org.au) | 08 8267 7334 | [lcami@lca.org.au](mailto:lcami@lca.org.au)



# OUR COMMUNITY

Our ALC community is rich, colourful and diverse. Here are just four of our stories.



Jodie

Jodie Hauser works as a site coordinator at Koojarewon Youth Camp (KYC), Highfields, in Queensland. (Koojarewon is operated by Lutheran Youth of Queensland and has been serving the community as a Lutheran Church campsite since 1971.) Her responsibilities are varied and vast. As well as being responsible for the day-to-day management of the campsite, she directs the overall camp and ministry program at KYC.

Prior to camp life, Jodie spent ten years working as a teacher in Lutheran Education and was accustomed to the 'bell' and having her time managed by a timetable and term planner. When she stepped into a lay worker position that involved living and working 'on site', she worked out very quickly that she needed some help with time management and setting priorities.

Earlier this year Jodie took the opportunity to attend two Grassroots Training workshops held in Queensland. She says that the Toolkit for Ministry workshop equipped her with some practical steps to set up boundaries around 'work time', 'my time' and 'my time with God'.

'Some simple tips shared in the workshop have been very helpful in promoting a better work/life balance', she says. 'This workshop also helped me define my ministry, and prioritise my time according to the values that shape me and the calling God has for my life.'

The 'Spiritual Resilience' workshop was another well-timed learning opportunity for Jodie. 'It was clearly God-designed!' she says. 'It was a timely reminder to be centred in Christ and to soak in Scripture, as we explored many characters in the Bible who persevered through adversity, trials and tribulations and continued to have faith and joy in the face of evil.'



Joanne

Joanne Brownnett grew up in Sydney and has been a member at LifeWay Lutheran Church, Epping, since her family moved there in 1990. In 2010 God closed some doors on her career in environmental science and opened another with the opportunity to work in the congregation as Growing Ministries Coordinator.

At the end of that contract, Joanne was advised to do some study and get some training to help her with any future ministry positions. She enrolled in a Certificate IV in Christian Ministry and Theology through ALC. This is a course designed as a foundational qualification for church and ministry workers in a range of fields, offered through a variety of delivery modes.

'I love helping to equip disciples as they grow in their relationship with Jesus, whether they are kids, teens or adults. I also want to gain accreditation as a lay worker with a qualification recognised across the LCA', Joanne says.

God has certainly grown her in unexpected ways through the course units she has undertaken so far, which she commenced when 20 weeks pregnant and then continued on with two small children.

'I look forward to being further challenged and drawn closer to God throughout the rest of the units', she says.



Dendy

Dendy Vando is a pastor of the Gereja Kristen Protestan Simalungun (GKPS), otherwise known as the Simalungun Protestant Christian Church. It is a Lutheran and Reformed Protestant church that was founded to spread Christianity among the Simalungun people, a tribe living in North Sumatra, Indonesia. It has a baptised membership of 250,000 people.

Dendy is studying at ALC on an LCA Mission International scholarship placement, completing a Master of Theological Studies. He came to us in 2013, after completing a year of English studies at Adelaide University. He hopes to complete his postgraduate studies later this year.

It was in primary school that Dendy first felt a calling to become a pastor. Many years later he completed his initial theological studies at the ecumenical seminary on Java before completing his three years of vicarage placements (unheard of in Australia but the norm for pastors-to-be in Indonesia).

'Moving to Australia has been a bit of a culture shock, especially weather-wise', Dendy says. 'ALC has been a good place for me to learn more about "Lutheran culture", as this is not a big focus in Indonesia. As you can imagine, the biggest challenge for me has been writing assignments in English. Thankfully, ALC has wonderful lecturers who empathise with my difficulties and willingly provide additional assistance when I need it.'

As part of his scholarship arrangement, Dendy spends most weekends ministering to the Indonesian community who are associated with the Pasadena congregation. At the completion of his studies here at ALC, Dendy will return home to his wife (whom he married in January 2015 and hasn't been able to spend much time with since) and congregation in Indonesia. He hopes that his studies will open a pathway for him to one day lecture at the Abdi Sabda Theological Seminary in his home country.

## JOIN US!

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

We offer high-quality teaching that prepares people to be effective spiritual leaders, educators and workers who bring life and renewal in the communities they serve.

Every year ALC welcomes new students of all ages. Maybe you'll be one of them.

Carl

Carl Richter could well be classified as a 'local lad', in comparison with many of his fellow classmates. Hailing from Tanunda in the beautiful Barossa Valley, Carl is completing his first-year studies in the pastoral stream at ALC. His association with ALC, however, stems back to his time living on campus as a boarding resident while completing a Bachelor of Commerce at Adelaide University. At the completion of this course, Carl spent six months in Lae working as a financial consultant for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea. (You could say he has decided to focus on a different kind of 'prophet' figure now.)

'It was during this time that my sense of calling to the ministry grew stronger', Carl says. 'So in textbook Jonah fashion, I decided to go backpacking around South America for six months. However, God followed me every step of my journey and convinced me of where I was meant to be. I am excited to be studying at ALC and about the learning and growth that I will experience over the years ahead.'

Carl's home congregation is Langmeil Lutheran Thanksgiving Church.





# Fritzsche Oration

## 10 August 2015 at 7.30pm

### ALC REFECTORY

'The silver years – Australian Lutheran involvement in PNG mission 1968–1987' By Dr Greg Lockwood



Dr Greg Lockwood

After the devastation of World War II, the 1950s and 1960s saw the rapid growth of the Lutheran churches in PNG, funded mainly by the American Lutherans. These were the golden years of Lutheran mission New Guinea.

On the basis of Lutheran Archives resources, including correspondence between Mission Director Ron Gerhardy and the Lockwoods, this year's Oration will cover the 20-year period from 1968 to the end of the Lockwood's service in 1987. Focusing mainly on PNG Lutheran seminaries and schools, topics will include the introduction of the National Education System in 1971, the alternative Bible and vernacular school system, issues of language and Bible translation, theology and culture, mission and church.

*The Fritzsche Oration commemorates Gotthard Fritzsche as the forerunner of Lutheran theological education in Australia, and highlights the contribution of the theologians of the church to the history of Australian Lutheranism. It is an annual event organised in partnership between Australian Lutheran College and the Board of Lutheran Archives.*

## Boarding at ALC

In addition to ALC's educational programs, we also provide residential facilities which can accommodate up to 100 private boarding residents.

All boarding residents are required to be enrolled in a full-time tertiary course, studying either on campus or at public 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. Our 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.

Community members are encouraged to participate in common activities, share problems and joys, and generally assist each other. To find out more about boarding at ALC or to arrange a tour of our facilities, please phone the college or contact us at [boarding@alc.edu.au](mailto:boarding@alc.edu.au). Applications for boarding in 2016 are available now on our website [www.alc.edu.au](http://www.alc.edu.au)



*Where it all began... Rev David Paech gives school leaders a glimpse of the part Klemzig and its leaders played in the beginnings of our church.*

# Learning to be

by Merryn Ruwoldt

This year saw the first cohort of senior leaders and principals enrolled in ALC's new Graduate Certificate in Leadership.

Nested in the Master of Education and Theology, this award enables school leaders and emerging leaders to explore the concept of what it means to lead in a Christian context in general and a Lutheran school in particular. The future potential also exists for parallel emphases to be developed exploring congregational leadership.

We were lucky enough to meet face to face with the current cohort over three days in April. Two of these were spent in the classroom under the guidance of Dr Stephen Haar, who led us on a journey considering ourselves as spiritual beings under the broad headings 'Learning to be' and 'Learning to serve'. During the third day we marshalled assistance from Lutheran Archives, past and present ALC teaching staff and some other knowledgeable presenters, and hit the road. At most stops we reflected on an aspect of the southern Lutheran narrative and took part in exercises designed to consider how our own personal story has shaped us as leaders. During the final stop we toured a landcare management site. Here we were shown what can happen when deep attention is paid to caring for the source and recognising the interconnectedness of the

relationships which flow from it. The project itself fascinated us, but it was also easy to connect the learnings into our schools.

It isn't easy for school leaders to find the time to complete graduate studies, but once the initial shock of the workload receded, the 2015 students wrote some insightful assessment pieces. I was encouraged by the quality of their responses and heartened by the thought that it is these people who are the holders of the story of Lutheran schools. They will now go on to complete two more semester-length units in order to obtain their degree. With some underpinning leadership theory now in place, the latter units will focus on skilling up the students to participate in ongoing dialogue between theology and leadership action in a Lutheran education environment. Our Lutheran worldview has informed school practice since Luther's day. This has not changed, nor have the school leaders' responsibilities in regard to this. It is an honour to be able to work with the leaders as they explore what this means through the vehicle of their Graduate Certificate in Leadership.

**Dr Merryn Ruwoldt is Head of the School of Educational Theology.**

## Partners

To find out more about how **ALC** supports teacher training: [www.alc.edu.au](http://www.alc.edu.au) | Freecall 1800 625 193 | [alc@alc.edu.au](mailto:alc@alc.edu.au)  
To find out more about **Lutheran Archives**: [www.lca.org.au/archives.html](http://www.lca.org.au/archives.html) | 08 8340 4009  
[lutheran.archives@lca.org.au](mailto:lutheran.archives@lca.org.au)



# See yourself at ALC?



*Australian Lutheran College prepares all sorts of people for all sorts of ministry—and most students don't need to move to Adelaide.*

## We're flexible

You can study on-campus if that suits you (and for some courses, you need to), but the vast majority of our students study off-campus, through workshops, 'intensives' and on-line learning.

More and more ALC students are studying via distance education, which is great if you can't attend classes because of work or family commitments; if you live outside Adelaide; or if you like to study anywhere, at any time and at your own pace.

## One college, three schools

ALC wants to provide the best possible response to the vocational advice and support needs of students in our learning programs. Our three schools enable ALC to be a caring community, as students complete their studies through one college. Think 'pastors, teachers, lay people' and you pretty much have it covered.

The **School of Pastoral Theology (SPT)** is what you know and love as 'the Sem'. It is responsible for the preparation of candidates for the pastoral ministry in the Lutheran Church of Australia. You have to come and live in Adelaide for this pastoral program; it's full-time residential.

- Do you know someone who has the makings of a pastor? Encourage him to pray about this. That's how many of our SPT students end up here—somebody recognised their gifts and 'tapped them on the shoulder'.
- Do you think God might be calling **you** to be a pastor?

The **School of Educational Theology (SET)**, formerly known as Lutheran Teachers College (LTC), provides pre-service and in-service education for people preparing to be teachers in Lutheran schools.

- 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?

The **School of Theological Studies (STS)** is a relatively new addition to ALC. It's for all those people in our church who don't

want to be a pastor or a teacher but still want to be better equipped for ministry. This group of students includes full-time and part-time LCA lay workers and also everyday people who want to grow in their faith and learn practical skills for reaching out to their friends and neighbours with the gospel. Does that sound like you?

You can choose to undertake a Higher Education pathway or gain accreditation through our nationally recognised vocational education and training (VET) courses. Modes of delivery include workshops, group studies and online learning. We are able to formally recognise your life experiences and previous study achievements in relation to the study level you are completing.

**Grassroots Training** is part of this school too. This ministry of ALC offers hands-on, practical training for everyday ('grassroots') people of the LCA. Keep an eye out for the green Grassroots Training logo, and try to get to one of our workshops or seminars at a location near you.

- Is God calling you to a lay ministry position, and you want to test the waters?
- Do you want to grow in knowledge and in faith?
- Do you want to gain skills for everyday mission and ministry?

## The first step

At ALC we're passionate about lifelong learning. No matter what your educational level or life experience, or where you live, we're sure we can offer you something that will help you to grow in wisdom and in grace.

So, take that first step today. Make the call or send us an email and join us in our LCA mission to be a church where God's love comes to life.

Phone 08 8267 7400 or Freecall 1800 625 193  
Email [alc@alc.edu.au](mailto:alc@alc.edu.au) | Web [www.alc.edu.au](http://www.alc.edu.au)

School of Pastoral Theology: [spt@alc.edu.au](mailto:spt@alc.edu.au)  
School of Educational Theology: [set@alc.edu.au](mailto:set@alc.edu.au)  
School of Theological Studies: [sts@alc.edu.au](mailto:sts@alc.edu.au)  
Grassroots Training: [grassroots@alc.edu.au](mailto:grassroots@alc.edu.au)



The Australian Lutheran Institute for Theology and Ethics (ALITE) at Australian Lutheran College will be hosting an international conference on the theology of Martin Luther to mark the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation.

The Luther@500 conference will be held from 28 June to 3 July 2016 at the Catholic Leadership Centre in East Melbourne, Australia. It will explore, positively and critically, the reception of Martin Luther's theology today and its significance for Christianity in the future. The exploration of Luther's theology will be three-dimensional: ecumenical, global and future-focused.

Five distinguished, international Luther scholars are confirmed as speakers:



Franz Posset	Kirsi Stjerna	James Nestingén	Risto Saarinen	Theodor Dieter
USA	Berkeley, California	St. Paul, Minnesota	Helsinki, Finland	Strasbourg, France

In addition, several ALC and other Australian Luther scholars will present papers.

The 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation is a major milestone not only in the global Lutheran church but also in the history of western Christianity. The time is ripe to take stock of what Luther has to offer the churches and Christian theology in the increasingly ecumenical and global contexts in which we live and work.

Luther@500 promises to be the major theological conference of its nature in the Southern Hemisphere. It will be of interest to Luther scholars, theologians, clergy, students and laypeople of all denominations.

Full details are available at [www.luther500.com.au](http://www.luther500.com.au)

Registration will be opening soon.



# Review and Renew

ALC serves the Church by preparing Lutheran teachers, parish workers, volunteers and pastors for their own service. We do this through our broad range of learning opportunities in Lutheran theology and practice. You, the people and congregations of the LCA/NZ, for your part, strain to financially support our work. We are extremely grateful for this.

Despite your generosity, however, our expenses are seriously outstripping our income. We cannot continue under our current financial model. To address this, the ALC Board has initiated a business review. The aim of the review is to develop a model that will more adequately support our call to prepare people to serve in and through the church. The review will be completed before the end of this year.

We see this as an exciting time as we plan to faithfully serve into the future.



Pastor James Winderlich  
PRINCIPAL





# YES...

I will support  
Lutheran ministry  
training through ALC!

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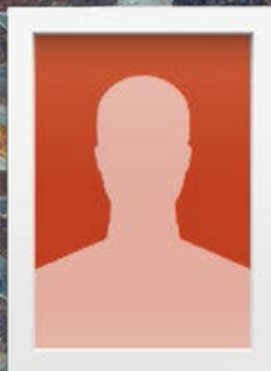


Australian Lutheran College

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Call 1800 625 193



# You're our partner, too.

Now that you've read the stories about the people of our Lutheran college, you'll see (as we do) how each of us needs and supports each other as we grow together as the body of Christ. The people training for ministry at ALC are partners with you, and you with them. Through our partnerships with LCA mission and ministry agencies, we're helping each other to grow the people of God and equip them to 'go' in his name. And all the time we're building relationships with our sisters and brothers in Lutheran partner churches overseas. Each of us is enriched as we walk and work together, as partners.

There's a face missing from this photo wall of our partners. That's reserved for you, for your face.

Through your care, your prayers and your financial support, you make it possible to train all these people, your partners in ministry—which makes you part of our ALC community, too.

**You're one of our partners.**

*Thank you.*

