

Lobethal Lutheran Messenger

DECEMBER ——— FEBRUARY, 2018

LIVING IN CHRIST, SHARING GOD'S LOVE, SERVING ALL PEOPLE.



*Every Blessing As You Celebrate this Christmas,
and Throughout The New Year Too*

A Year of Celebrations

See inside for articles, stories and pictures

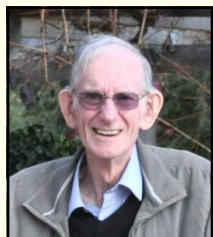
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Regularly check our web site for up-dates — www.lobethallutheranchurch.org.au

Lobethal Lutheran Messenger

A Year of Celebrations

FROM THE EDITOR



You may notice a theme of red running through this edition of the 'Messenger.' When there is celebration in the church, the church is decorated in red. Red is the colour for celebration, and this year we have had a lot to celebrate, so no apologies for the red theme.

What a wonderful day of celebration our Luther 500 day turned out to be. There may have been a chill in the air, but there were many worshippers and the fellowship was warm and inviting. You can read the report penned by Lorraine Boerth on page 8 and view the pictorial on the following pages.

Recently, the thought occurred to me that starting way back in May we have indeed been a 'church in celebration'. On the 7th of May we had a huge thanksgiving celebration for the 175th Anniversary of the founding of Lobethal. I'm sure you all remember that day clearly.

On Sunday May 21st, we had another huge celebration, the opening / dedication of the new Resident Centre in the Valley of Praise Retirement Village.

On July 2nd, we farewelled Pastor Dave and Jan Preuss. We did not so much celebrate their leaving, but that we have been so blessed by the way Pastor David had served us so lovingly for the last eight years. Truly, a celebration.

Now, after a breather for a couple of months, on October 22nd we celebrated the 'Top of the Valley Luther 500' event mentioned earlier in the column.

The following Sunday, Oct. 29th we witnessed eight young people confirm their faith in Jesus. Riley Harten, the only boy in the Confirmation Class was also baptised at this service. What a service and celebration this turned out to be!

The next Sunday was 'All Saints Day'. This also brought a number of visitors who came to honour and remember their loved ones. Occasions such as these as well as funerals don't always seem like celebrations at the time, but we do speak about a 'celebration of life'. In this issue of the Messenger we farewell three more of our beloved church members. There is of course a huge difference in how we celebrate a funeral. Mourning? Depending on the circumstances and situations, mourning of loved ones comes in many different forms, but to be a Christian and to know that our loved ones are with Jesus is what makes the difference. This may not take all the pain away, but what more could we celebrate than to know that they are with God, and that God is with us.

We are now into Advent, this means that Christmas and the New Year celebrations are upon us.

To top all these celebrations off, we have received the good news that Pastor Joe Kummerow has positively answered our call to be our pastor here at Lobethal! We look forward to welcoming him and his family early in the New Year.

Even if we don't have a church filled every Sunday, the worship service alone is always a cause for celebration. We truly are a 'celebrating church', celebrating the love that Jesus has for us and for all people. Let us praise the Lord!

A blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year to you all.

John.



Photo Gallery, Celebrations.

Celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the founding of Lobethal, on the 7th, May.



We celebrated the opening and dedication of the VPRV Resident Centre, May 21st.



Beryl Smith presents flowers and farewells Jan and Pastor David Preuss at their Farewell Service.



Dr Noel Due delivered the address at the Luther 500 Service.



Pastor David Kuss (Birdwood) receiving his monk style short back and sides, or should it read 'an all rounder', in front of a huge crowd of on-lookers.

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Greetings From Pastor Joe Kummerow

What to leave behind... and what to take with you.

Kia Ora!

(Hello. Be well. Be happy)

The Kummerow family are all packed up and will soon be ready to make the four and a half-hour flight across 'the ditch' to our new home in Lobethal. There's just a few more sermons to write, service orders to prepare, bible studies to lead, visits to make, meetings to attend, speeches to prepare and farewells to go to...and then we'll be on our way!

It's a time of mixed emotions for us. We will miss the multi-cultural nature of life and ministry here in Auckland, as well as the beautiful life-long friends we have made. It's been a great adventure over the last five years living in New Zealand, but we're equally excited to be making Lobethal our new home, and meeting our new church family.

Wrapping all your belongings and packing them up is a big job, especially when it's an international move, and especially with a family. It's amazing, (and a bit frightening), the amount of stuff you manage to accumulate over the years! And

when you leave one place to go to another, you have to make some ruthless decisions about what to leave behind, and what to take with you. Sadly, our cat Charlie is going to become a permanent NZ resident!

As we pack-up and prepare to leave Auckland our attention is also drawn, at this time of the year, to an even more important preparation that is going on. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, God is preparing our hearts and minds to welcome and receive the Christ-child at Christmas time. He's a gift that we will get to unpack. At first glance a rather unremarkable gift- a baby wrapped in swaddling cloth and lying in a manger- but a gift that is full of promise.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2: 11-12)

Only in faith can we take hold of the reality that this baby is not only *a Saviour*, who is Christ the Lord, but *your Saviour* who comes down from heaven to earth *for you*. And at this manger *you will find* this Saviour. There's a beautiful promise attached to these last few words. You *will* find your Saviour, Jesus, and that is because God shows you and tells you *where* you can find him (*emphasis mine*).

In Jesus, God comes to us in human clothes. He comes to bring us his love, forgiveness, healing and peace. Jesus comes to gladly and willingly stretch out his hands to receive all the things we need to leave behind-our sins and brokenness, our anger and hurts.

As you prepare to unwrap, (or unpack), this precious gift, may you be refreshed and renewed by God's love for you, and may you take Jesus with you into the New Year and wherever you go. See you in January!

Kia te ariki ki a koutou! (*The Lord be with you*)

Pastor Joe, Julie, Lucy and Emily, Nicholas and Alexander



Lobethal Christian Book Shop

Christian Book Shop

At the moment there is a good selection of 'budget' Christmas cards. These are priced from \$2-50 for a pkt of six. This is good value, but if you need more we do have boxed Christmas cards that are very reasonably priced as well.

There are Nativity and other Christmas decorations as well as gifts and books for all ages; dolls and teddies and other toys are also available.

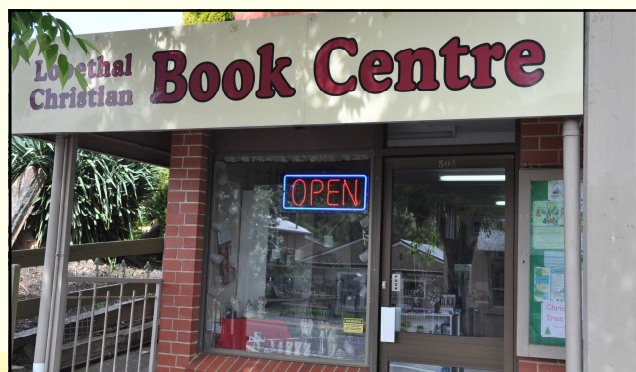
Our staff are a wonderful group of volunteers working in our shop just eager to serve you. I thank each and every one of them who helps in the shop for the work that they do. I extend to all of them a blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

We do have a few spots that are vacant and if anyone could help out for half a day a fortnight or even once a month; this would help us out tremendously. Over the 'Lights' period from December 10th through to the 23rd, the shop will be open in the evening from 7 till 10pm. We are looking for people to help out in the shop on some of these nights. If you are able to spend a night or two during the Christmas Lights period, we would appreciate your help. If you think you may be able to volunteer your services or even just help during the Christmas period, please get in touch with Pam Size, 08 8389 6291

or on 0413809 013, or leave your name at the shop. We are open every week day from 9-00am till 5-00 pm and 9-00 till 11am on Saturdays.

The Lobethal Christian Book Centre will close it's doors from Dec. 23rd through to January 15th, 2018. If you think you may need something during this time, I suggest you make your purchase before December 23rd.

Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas. *Pam Size.*



Lobethal Lutheran Messenger

A Celebration of Confirmation

Pastor David Preuss — Confirmation Address



The Confirmation Class of 2017

Centre Rear, Pastor David Preuss
Back row, L to R. *Lucy May,*
Tana Mieglic,
Ile Tonkin, and Riley Hearten.
Front row. *Demi Schwarz,*
Mackey Fox,
Mackenzie Smith-Hole
and Isabel Newman.

Remember Jesus

**2 Tim 2:8 Remember Jesus Christ,
raised from the dead, descended from David.
This is my Gospel.**

The pastor began by showing a slide with eight pictures on it, then blanking it out and seeing how many people could remember. It's not always easy to remember things is it? I once left a supermarket thinking I'd remembered everything, and was putting the groceries in the car, when the assistant ran out shouting, "excuse me, did you forget something?" To my horror, she was holding a basinet with our new born baby daughter in it. I'd left her on the counter! Some things we forget are unimportant, but others, like a baby are very important. In scripture, over and over again God pleads with His people, not to forget Him. I want you to remember just three words from this address: REMEMBER JESUS CHRIST. Why amongst all others, is Jesus worth remembering the most? Aren't there other things that we think are just as important in our lives? There's sport, (remember how hard it was to find a night for confirmation that suited everyone, because of all your sporting commitments), and you have study, you want to go places and spend time with friends. Don't forget your family, then there's TV. Computer games on those blessed mobile phone sets. Why is it so important in the midst of all these supposedly important things, to find time to remember Jesus and worship Him? Let's try and answer that 'why'.

If Jesus has the power to overcome death, then nothing for Him is impossible. The text says, "remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead". This is the Christian's greatest hope. Because He rose. He also promises us life after we have died. Having Jesus in our lives is the difference between eternal death and eternal life. And I think that's fairly convincing reason as to why we should remember Him.

Remember Jesus, because He's your greatest friend. Sometimes you may feel as though you are not loved, not good enough, you feel yuck, or you have no friends. Please know this: Jesus will always be there for you. He loves you and accepts you, just as you are. He never puts you down. He is a great encourager. In His word, He offers the best advice. In tough times, it's like He takes you by the hand and says, "let me guide you through this."

His words point us to the best way to enjoy life and make the most of it. John 10 vs. 10, **"I have come that you may have life and have it to the full."**

Remember Jesus. In Baptism, He adopted us as His own children, that's why we can call God our Father in heaven. Jesus' love for you and me is so great that he was willing to be crucified on the cross, instead of us, to wash all our sin away. He didn't have to, but because of you, he wanted to.

Remember Jesus. He hears every word we pray to Him. And he answers our prayers in the way He knows is best. Prayer includes saying thanks and giving praise. King David says in Psalm 103:2 "Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things He does for me."

Remember Jesus. Because He gives us strength, He gives us inner peace. He gives us hope and He removes our fears.

Today you commune for the first time. My prayer is that you young people will come to the Lord's supper with eagerness and expectancy, believing this is not a dull religious ceremony, but a reliving, a remembering of all that Jesus Christ has done for you on the cross.

So remember Jesus, the one you have learned about in confirmation. He is alive and He will reign forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end. No matter what anyone says or does to you, you do not need to be afraid, Jesus is with you. His Spirit is helping, guiding and giving you the power to live the Christian life every day.

That is a little bit about **why** we are to remember Jesus. Now we talk about **how** we remember? Have you a Bible? If so I encourage you to read it, study it, highlight important verses, even memorise them without the incentive of a chocolate frog for doing so. And memorize Christian songs. Worship, is a great way to remember Jesus. Choose your friends carefully, they can have a big influence on your life. Talk with them about what you believe. This will certainly help you remember Jesus. I'm giving you a copy of this address, to help you remember. Today, don't just say your faith statements and ditch them. Put your faith statement in your Bible so you can remember what you said on your confirmation day. Finally, as you look to your future, it's not your academic achievements that are all important, it is not your sporting ability, it's not whether you become rich or famous that is all important. It's whether or not you remember Jesus Christ, follow him and grow in your relationship with him. That's what's all important. Because Jesus has more to offer. So friends, have a great life, and REMEMBER JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

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Confirmation

Confirmation Class of 2017

What an amazing bunch of young people, who celebrated their Confirmation on 29th October! We met every Thursday from 4:30 to 5:30 pm, a weird time, but that is what fitted around sporting activities, usually anyway. Pastor Dave, who started the class in February, together with several extra teachers took it in turns to lead the lessons. With Bibles in hand, much discussion, and lots of guidance from the Holy Spirit, we worked through the course, learning and challenging our life style. Memorising the Bible text from each lesson was a challenge, and many a time we had a visually prepared version, with full actions, explaining the meaning of the text. The Chocolate frog incentives sure helped.

As the lessons were held mid afternoon, we had another group of awesome people who prepared snacks for these hungry youngsters. Thank you so much to them.

There were many interesting discussions, and in one of the lessons I learnt that the Walls were built around Jerusalem to... keep the rabbits out. Well the Bible didn't say that, but... it was funny.

Confirmation day was a wonderful day, as these young people gave their faith statements to the congregation. Confirmation, is confirming the faith that was declared for you as an infant. It was awesome to see the Baptism rites that day, thanks Riley for helping us to remember our baptism.

Do you remember your confirmation? I wonder what your Faith statement would say. Have you had highs and lows, and seen the Lord's hand in all your ways. The day was a wonderful day of celebration, these 8 young people have declared their love of their Saviour, and I pray that Pastor Dave's address, to 'Remember', will help them, and us, recall the wonderful Love of our God and Father.

I pray that your lives were enriched as we together celebrated Confirmation Sunday 2017.

Beryl M Smith

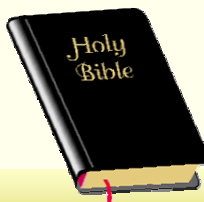


This photo above includes those who helped and taught this years confirmation class. Many thanks to these people, they will be remembered by these young people for the rest of their lives.

Left side of group, rear, John Kleemann, front, Beryl Smith.

Right rear, Pastor David Preuss, front, Dianne Schwarz.

Editor.



A Word from Russell



It was 7:30pm on a Thursday night in 1967. About 20 members of the congregation sat quietly in the little church. They had all seen this before, in fact most had been in a very similar situation themselves. This night was 'The Examination' three days before each of these two young boys would be confirmed.

The Pastor stood behind the lectern at the front of the church, a very serious and methodical man, he had prepared well for this event. He studied the two 13 year old boys facing him, nervously seated in the front pew. With a gentle, yet serious tone of voice, he pointed to the first student and began; "John 3:16, For God..."

The young lad hesitated briefly, mentally checking his answer, then responded; "so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life".

Satisfied with the response, and yet careful not to let it show, he pointed to the second student and said; "Romans 2:12, All who sin..."

And so it went on, for just over an hour, back and forth the finger pointed to each of the two boys in turn. If one stumbled the other was expected to be able to pick up the mistake and know the answer. For the previous 2 years, nearly three hundred Bible texts, the Creeds, and a good part of 'Luther's Small Catechism' all had to be memorized, understood and recited on command.

These memories came flooding back to me as I sat in a very different church a few weeks ago. Again, it was a confirmation service, but in 42 years a lot of changes had taken place. No official examination this time. Things were now quite different. While it might be tempting to reminisce about the 'good old days' I mused on the fact that now I would be lucky to remember just a handful of those 300 bible verses, I wondered if the 'good old days' were really that good. I often think back to that night, and just what it meant to myself and that other boy—who by the way, also just happened to be the Pastor's son!

What does it mean to be a Christian? How much theory do we really need to know? I sometimes contemplate what joy that becoming a Christian must mean to someone who has made a decision to follow Christ later in life, compared to someone like me, who has been brought up in the church from childhood. But then realise the error of this type of thinking. God doesn't care how we came to follow him but just that we do! I don't believe that God cares whether we can recite 300 bible texts or not, but he does care that we know him and have a personal relationship with him in our hearts.

Yet I still remember the excitement and significance of that day, 50 years ago, when I renewed my Baptismal vows, dedicating my life to my Lord Jesus Christ, and as I watched eight young people do the same thing a few weeks ago, I appreciated how special it must have been to them as well.

Did I remember everything I learnt in those 2 years of Confirmation lessons? Sadly not. Do you remember everything that you learnt in yours? Probably not either, but do we need to? Thankfully, none of the above is needed, we just need to remember to grow closer to God with each passing day of our lives. Put our trust in Him! That is all He asks.

No one hour exam needed!

Russell Hartman

Lobethal Lutheran Messenger

Celebrations of Life

In Remembrance Of Our Dearly Departed



Aileen Daphne Grote

(nee Golly)

1937 — 2017

Dearly Loved Wife of Philip

A celebration and thanksgiving service for Aileen's life was conducted in our Church on Wednesday, October 4th, 2017.

Aileen was dearly loved wife of Philip for 55 years and much loved mother of Marianne and James (deceased), and mother-in-law of Noreen. Loving Gran of Samantha.

Aileen's scripture readings came from Isaiah 40: 28—31, Isaiah 43: 1b — 3a, John 14: 1 — 6. The scripture readings were read by Philip, Granddaughter Samantha read a poem and Marianne read the eulogy. Three hymns were sung, 'The Lord's My Shepherd', 'Abide With Me' and as a Recessional, 'A Christmas Blessing' was sung'.



Noreen Gertrude Hughes

24-10-1928 — 12-10-2017

(Formerly Hoffmann nee Heitmann)

A celebration of her life held in our church, followed by a Committal Service at the Lobethal Cemetery on Thursday, October 19th, 2017.

Beloved wife of the late Perce and the late Benno.

Passed away peacefully on October 12th, 2017.

Much loved mother, step mother, Nanna/Grandma of Roger (deceased); Sharon and Wayne; Brodie and Kayla.

John and Sandy; Garry and Sue; Bob and Rosalie; Lynne and Sam; Allan, and the extended Hughes family.

Hymns sung at Noreen's Funeral Service were 'Amazing grace', 'How great thou art' and 'A Christmas Blessing.'

The Lord is my light and salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life: of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1.



Mary Rosalind Sickerdick

(nee Helling)

1936 — 2017

Passed away peacefully on 29th October.

Aged 80 years.

A celebration of Mary's life held in our church on Monday November 6th, 2017, followed by a Committal Service at the Lobethal Cemetery. Mary was the beloved wife of the late Dennis. Much loved and devoted mother and mother-in-law of David and Carolyn, Scott and Valerie, Grant and Jane; Quentin and Sharna. Loving nanna of 14 grandchildren and one great grandchild

The hymns chosen for Mary's service were 'Abide with Me', 'How Great Thou Art.' 'A Christmas Blessing' was sung during the recessional. The readings chosen came from 1st Peter 1: 3—9. John 14: 1—6. The address was based on these two readings.

In loving Memory of Mary.

Please note, Pastor David Preuss kindly officiated at these funerals.

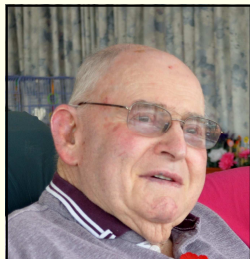
Lobethal Lutheran Messenger

A Year of Celebrations

Recorded Celebrations in our Church this Year

Our Dearly Departed in 2017

(Earlier to those on previous page)



Dennis Schultz, entered his eternal home on 7th April 1933 —2017

Funeral Service Celebrated April 20th.



Doris Pfeiffer, passed away on 7th August 1929 —2017

Celebration of her life held 15th August.



Joyce Hille, passed away peacefully on 16th April. 1936 —2017

Funeral service was on 22 April.



Ivan Schubert departed this life for his Heavenly home on 28th June. 1928 —2017

Thanksgiving service was 10th July.

To God Be The Glory

To God be the glory, great things he has done
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life gate that all may go in!

Praise the Lord! Praise the lord!

Let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Let the people rejoice!

*O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he has done!*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God!
And every offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives

Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see:

Frances Jane van Alstyne 1820 — 1915

Our heartfelt sympathy to all who are grieving. We grieve because we love, but who would not choose love?

Baptisms

Riley Harten	Lilli Edwards
Piper Schutz	Odin Kaesler
Maxwell Woolford	Mia Lienert
Theodore Baschiera	Taylah Mieglich
Tom Colyer	Steven Newman
Laurence Day	Thomas Parker
Lucy Del-Zoppo	Audrey Schulz

Wedding Bells



Lydia Braunack Mayer — Vincent Schlagel

Christina Wojnar — Richard Guzam

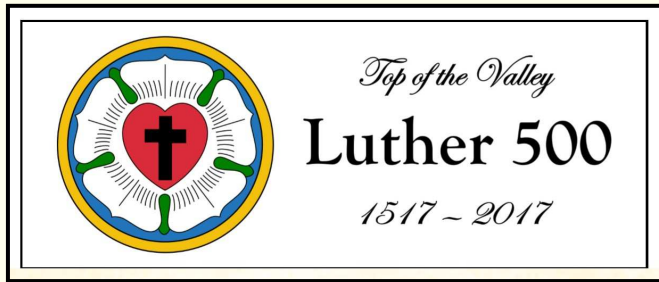
Michelle Juers — Christopher Aitken

Charilee Hoad — Luke Zanker

Lobethal Lutheran Messenger

A Year of Celebrations

Top Of the Valley, Luther 500 Celebration. 1517—2017.



After months of planning, a concept became reality on October 22nd 2017, when the Lutheran Church congregations of Birdwood, Lobethal, Springhead and Woodside, together commemorated and celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Lutheran congregations from near and far, as well as churches of other denominations from the Adelaide Hills area and beyond, were invited to attend the day at Lobethal Lutheran Church. Everyone was encouraged to dress in period costume – monk, peasant, princess, Luther look-alike or other dress from the era. Alternatively, if unable (or unwilling!) to ‘dress up’, those attending were encouraged to dress in red, the appropriate seasonal colour for Reformation.

The morning began with fellowship over coffee – a great chance to mingle - catching up with old friends and making new acquaintances. A symbolic re-enactment of the nailing of the 95 theses on a wooden door using genuine German hand-crafted nails preceded the procession into church for the start of the communion service. An old historical German edition of the Holy Bible was placed front and centre of the sanctuary, Luther’s rose motif prominently adorning the lectern parament.

Pastor Dave Kuss led the liturgy and Pastor Noel Due gave an insightful address on the topic “the heart of the problem is the problem of the heart”, while Pastor Luke Spilsbury led the general prayers - the congregation praying the Lord’s Prayer in German. Both traditional hymns and contemporary songs resonated through the church, as almost 400 worshippers sang praises to the Lord.

At the end of the service, meal grace was sung in readiness for Mitagassen – midday meal. Outside in the car park bordered by the Chapel (the original St John’s Lutheran Church), the Lobethal Lutheran School and the oval, a village square had been created with individual ‘traders’ showing their crafts and selling their wares. In the centre of the village square, trestles laden with food options with a German flavour including ham, metwurst, dills, pickles and sauerkraut, followed by apple pies and cakes, enticed hungry ‘villagers’. Traders included sales to quench thirst including beer made from hops from the local area, soft drinks and barrister coffee. ‘Katie’s Korner’ (Luther’s wife) exhibited older style baking wares, while static displays and give-aways from Australian Lutheran World Service, Lutheran Media Ministry, Lutheran Laypeople’s League, Lutheran Tract Mission, Blue Print Ministries, Lobethal Lutheran School and Open Arms Community Child Care Centre enabled villagers to explore the focus of these outreach ministries and organisations. The Village Crier announced impending events and activities, his very loud hand-bell inciting an instant response of quiet! The afternoon activities were in two allocated time slots where villagers were able to attend two of three organised electives.

Many found it hard to decide between Dr. Dean Zweck who gave an overview of the Reformation from his personal experiences

in Germany and a lifetime of studying Luther with his oral and visual presentation; Australian Lutheran College Student Matthew Huckel who shared his knowledge of Luther using his talents playing the Lute, singing Luther hymns and sharing an explanation and meaning of hymns; and Rachel Kuchel, an archivist and director of Lutheran Archives who spoke on the topic of “Martin Luther 500 Years – What is his legacy for Australians today?” Alternatively, some villagers elected to participate in the ‘Luther Trail’ where a passport was issued, instructing the owner to collect educational information, tokens and treats from each trader. Children had their faces painted; young and old participated in the colouring competition while others played old-style games like quoits. The Springhead Bell Ringers provided entertainment and the Beer Stein holding competition drew a crowd.

The main event of the late afternoon was the Tonsure Haircut. Pastor Dave Kuss offered to have his hair ‘tonsured’ if we were able to raise at least \$500. That happened in an instant! In fact, we raised \$1048. Actually, the haircut quite suited him, although much of the time it was shielded from view by his Stetson!

What a wonderful day our ‘Top of the Valley Luther 500’ day was. So much fellowship, joy and laughter. Villagers of all ages interacted with each other as neighbouring congregations joined forces to celebrate and commemorate this event. We thank God for the various talents and gifts of individuals and the willingness of so many to contribute to this memorable, once in a lifetime occasion. All proceeds from the day will be distributed between the Lutheran agencies and organisations who participated through displays and interactions in the village square. We continue to praise God for the way He used Martin Luther to rediscover from the Bible, that our Salvation is through faith alone – and God’s Grace – His unreserved and undeserving love for us.

Lorraine Boerth.



A church decorated in red for Reformation.

Lobethal Lutheran Messenger

A Year of Celebrations

Luther 500 Pictorial



Lobethal Lutheran Messenger

A Year of Celebrations

Luther 500 Pictorial



Lobethal Lutheran Messenger

A Year of Celebrations

Leon's Cycling Blog.



Head Winds!

Not a head wind again!

There are lots of things about riding a bike that are just plain hard work. Take riding up a steep hill for example. No matter which way it's analysed, it's just hard work!

Now I don't mind hard work, so a few hills can actually be an enjoyable challenge. On

the other hand, there's one part of cycling that takes hard work to a new level and that's riding into a strong head wind. There's just no way to avoid the constant pressure in your face and against the front of your body caused by a head wind. It saps your energy making every pedal stroke laborious. The gusty and erratic gully winds on the western face of the Mt Lofty Ranges are especially testing! At this time of the year there's the additional challenge of north westerly winds that blow dry, pollen laden air that's just perfect for hayfever sufferers! "Achoo!"

Now you have every right to be thinking, "Just toughen up and stop your whinging! After all, no one makes you ride a bike!" Of course, you are right. In fact, writing this little article for *The Messenger* reminded me that I need to change my attitude and perspective about the wind, after all, there are good things about the wind as well.

Take for example the passages in the Bible referring to the wind being God's messenger of warning, judgment and destruction, see Psalm 104:4 or Psalm 148:8). God uses the wind (particularly the East wind) to describe his work of driving out evil and sinfulness eg Jeremiah 30:23, "See, the storm of the Lord will burst out in wrath, a driving wind swirling down on the heads of the wicked."

Now that doesn't sound like a good thing, especially if we are one of the 'wicked'! On the other hand, it is an important reminder that God can use anything, including the wind, to 'buffet' us around and unsettle us, warning us and reminding us to put our trust and our hope in him.

Then there's the powerful story of Pentecost where the Holy Spirit comes to those gathered in the room through a sound like the blowing of a violent wind from heaven which filled the whole house where they were sitting. How awesome and scary would that have been, but also how awe inspiring as people were filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages.

So maybe the wind isn't such a bad thing after all! Maybe I need to change my whole perspective. In fact, maybe I need to be less like a human and more like a dog! Now you're probably thinking, "What's he talking about?" Let me explain. That last sentence about changing my perspective reminded me of our farm dogs, who would sit on the back of the ute as we hurtled along dusty country roads near our farm. The dogs would poke their noses through the hurdles, faces into the wind, tongues hanging out with saliva dribbling everywhere, with eyes watering as the wind whipped over their faces. I'm sure you can picture it! The expression on their faces was one of unreserved joy and amazement. If they could have spoken English I'm sure they would have been yelling, "Woo hoo! This is awesome! Feel the wind in your face! Look at all the exciting things to see! Woo hoo! This is the best head wind ever!



Next time you face a 'head wind' in your life remember those farm dogs, but most importantly, remember their maker. His sweet, warm breath is the wind that gave you life. He breathed new life into you when you were Baptised. He continues to breath a gentle wind (maybe stronger some days than others) over your face every day as he teaches you, corrects you and nurtures your faith. The warm loving breath of the Spirit is the ultimate comfort when the cold chill of suffering and death pierces your life.

Like those farm dogs, put your face to the wind (hang your tongue out if you like!) and celebrate the wonderful joy of knowing that your loving heavenly father is breathing his warm, loving and sweet breath into your life every moment of every day.

Now that is the best 'head wind' ever! "Woof!"

Leon Doecke

Ladies Guild Thankyou.

A BIG THANKYOU

To so Many People

A call went out, the church needs cleaning,
And folk turned up to vacuum and dust.

The spiders were shaken
The bees were swept up
The rubbish collected
The papers were sorted
The stairs were scrubbed
The walls were dusted
The carpet was spot cleaned
And vacuumed a lot
The cupboards got an airing
The shelves were polished
The tracts were tidied
The window ledges wiped
The pews were dusted
The toys were checked
And re-arranged
The fridge was cleaned
And microwave too
The bins were emptied
And it all looked wonderful.
There were so many people
Who helped clean up
So a **BIG THANKYOU**
For doing your part.

Beryl M Smith (GS)



*Beryl and Marcel on
their latest Snowy ride.
"Look mum, no hands."
2017*

Lobethal Lutheran Messenger

A Year of Celebrations

Margy's Promotions



Date: Saturday 24th February, 2018

Venue: Adelaide West Uniting Church, Brooklyn Park

Keynote speakers:
Mark & Lisa Scandrette.

For Children's Ministry people,
Parents and Grandparents.

Mark & Lisa are “**authors of Belonging and Becoming creating a thriving family culture**—an amazing book on what family life can become.” Info from <https://www.ivpress.com/belonging-and-becoming>

“Mark Scandrette has written four books on practical spirituality: Soul Graffiti, Practicing The Way of Jesus, (FREE), and Belonging and Becoming (Co-authored with Lisa Scandrette). He is currently working on a 5th book on personality, self-awareness and transformation.

We help individuals and communities apply spiritual wisdom to everyday life by (1) Awakening Imagination; (2) Creating Practical Content; (3) Facilitating Experiential Learning ; and (4) Empowering Leaders, who can teach others.

“Mark.is an author, teacher, activist and coach for leaders and teams who want to create a better world from the inside out. Lisa is an author and educator who is passionate about caring for individuals and creating a more peaceful world.”

Mark is the founding director of Reimagine. Information from <http://www.reimagine.org/#overview>
More info and registration details available soon at: <https://invigor8conference.weebly.com/>

Christmas Eve Practice

Christmas Eve worship led by children—Sunday Dec 24th AT 7.30 pm.

Parts have been allocated, however non speaking parts are still available if you contact me asap.



Practise times for Christmas Eve Service are:
Sunday December 17th, 2-4pm and
Sat Dec 23rd, 10am-12noon.
Margy 0408894457



Lobethal Lutheran Messenger

A Year of Celebrations

Professional Standards training

Professional Standards Training session Lobethal Lutheran Church Basement Sunday Feb 4th—12pm-approx 6 pm.



Core module (4.5hours) for all in positions of power, on teams, on committees, working in roles with others, working with under 18 year olds... most people (*who have not done this or have done it Feb 2015 or earlier.*)

Followed by SP3 (formerly Child Safe) for all Church Admin, Pastoral Assistants, and those who want to or may want to work with under 18 year olds, parents are encouraged to do this. (*For those who have not done this or have done it Feb 2015 or earlier.*)

***Make your own roll lunches will be available in the basement kitchen.**

****10am Lobethal Lutheran School installation service that morning**

*****Online bookings will open very soon, limited to 35 places, those I am aware of who require this have been notified by email—there may be others interested too**

Professional Standards training—is the “Lutheran Church of Australia’s commitment to reflect God’s love through the way we treat each other and those who come into contact with our church.” Earlier in the year we were able to watch a series of videos that showed how we can care for each other and be God’s people in many ways. **LCA Standards of Ethical Behaviour** Brochures are available in the church narthex or online at <http://www.lca.org.au/departments/ministry-support/professional-standards/standards-ethical-behaviour/>

Professional Standards training “Core” follows on from that and helps us further unpack how we show love in these areas, as a church. The core is designed for people who work with others in any way or have responsibility in our churches. Basically is for all people.

SP3 - Safe people, Safe Places, Safe Programs has now been adopted as the name for the Child Safe component of the training and online system, for all leadership and those who work with under 18 year-olds.

Margy Seidel—SP3 (formerly Child safe) coordinator & Professional Standards (formerly Safe Place, but with a wider scope)
040884457 mmseidel@interndoe.on.net

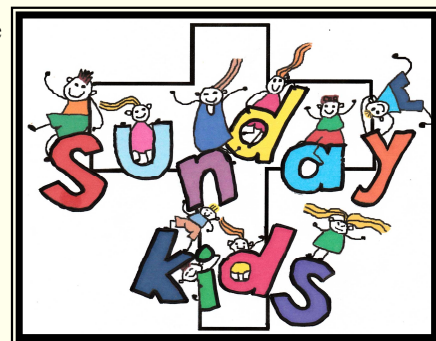
Children’s Ministry — Sunday Kids

Children’s Ministry—Sunday Kids. Our final session for 2017 will have happened by the time you read this.

In term 4 we have had a Top of the Valley Luther 500 Sunday School Session as part of Oct 22nd celebrations, where we focussed on Martin Luther’s faith symbol—Luther’s rose and made one! In November we focussed on serving and encouraging each other, and finally in December, on Advent and Christmas.

We have continued to meet fortnightly (mostly) on Sundays at 9.15 when there is no Holy communion at 8.45 worship and concluded at 10.15. We have explored Bible stories from Matthew for the majority of the year and they have tied in with Growing Faith at home and the readings for the Sunday. Our creative response activities have been filled with variety from planting to making to playing, to eating...

We are happy to hear of any further suggestions you may have and ways in which we can help pass the faith onto our children and grandchildren, reach out to others with God’s love, and resource our families in doing so. Feedback is most welcome as we look to 2018. Stay tuned early in 2018 for information regarding what is happening..... Margy on behalf of the Children’s Ministry Team.



Lobethal Lutheran Messenger

A Year of Celebrations

Lobethal Lutheran Church Facebook Page

Our church 'motto' incorporates the words 'Know, Live and Share Jesus'. Whilst many of our members are fantastic at the first two, we are consistently encouraged and sometimes feel challenged to share Jesus with the wider community. In the current digitally driven world, what better way to share Jesus and how we know him, than through the world of social media.

Our church Facebook page has been created to further our outreach into the community. It will allow information to be more readily shared to members and many others. It will also create connections with other Hills Lutheran churches, LCA events and information, and perhaps even create global connections. Photos of our church members will be used sensitively and permissions sought before posting.

If you are a Facebook member, it's as simple as a 'Like' on the page and the regular posts will appear in your newsfeed. Please 'Like' or comment when you see the posts as that will enable them to be seen by more people who are not connected to the page.

If you have an event, photos or some information you would like promoted through the page, please contact Kellie Harten (kelharten@gmail.com) or Margy Seidel (mmseidel@internode.on.net) or the church office (Lobethal.sa@lca.org.au).

Thank you for the support given by Facebook members so far!

Kellie Harten.



Beyond Gold, Prayer Initiative



Queen's Baton Prayer Watch

The Prayer Watch is linked to the path of the Queen's Baton Relay. The Baton is travelling through each of the Commonwealth Nations and will arrive in Australia on 24th December 2017. The Baton will travel through each state of Australia from 26th January 2018 and arrives on the Gold Coast on 1st April.

Australian Leg -Strategy:

Churches and individuals across the nation are encouraged to pray for the towns and regions of Australia as the baton passes through

We encourage individuals to include prayer for each of the towns in their prayer each day.

For churches include prayer for the towns in your weekly prayer meeting and or worship services

Prayer points are available on the Gold Coast House of Prayer Website under Queen's Baton Prayer Watch. www.oneheartgc.com.au

Editors note. This was forwarded on to me recently by Margie Seidel. If for no other reason but for the sake of some Christian encouragement that Christianity is not dead, (although at a low ebb in many western nations), it is uplifting to read of many churches and Christians around the world participating in prayer for the Queen's Baton Prayer Watch. You may like to get involved and join in the prayer watch yourself. For more information and encouragement go to the highlighted Web address above.

Lobethal Lutheran Messenger

A Year of Celebrations



“A Baby Born for All”

You are invited to join us...

**For Family Worship,
Led by the children.**

**On Christmas Eve,
Sunday December 24th,
2017.**

**At Lobethal Lutheran
Church at 7:30 pm**

Christmas Worship times at Lobethal Lutheran Church

Living in Christ! Sharing God's love! Serving all people!

Sunday, 10th December 8:45am with
Holy Communion; 10:30am informal

Sunday 10th December
Carols in the Valley 7pm -8.30pm

Sunday 17th December 8.45am;
10:30am informal with Holy Communion

Sunday December 24th 10am
7:30pm Christmas Eve led by children

Mon Dec 25th Christmas Day 10am

Sun 31st Dec 10am New Years Eve
morning with Holy Communion

2018—10 am on Jan 7th, 14th, 28th
****Sunday Jan 21st - 3pm** Installation of
Pastor Joe Kummerow**

Feb 4th 10 am installation of Lobethal
Lutheran School Staff
(12pm Professional Standards Training)

Living Nativity—in the Amphitheatre Dec 10th—23rd nightly.
first show: 8:50pm—9:10pm, second show 9:20pm—9:40pm.

*You are warmly invited join us as we celebrate
the birth of our Lord and Saviour..*



The Living Nativity

A gift from the Hills churches to the community...



Come and see a re-enactment of the most amazing story, the birth of Jesus. This event features real actors and animals and the 'stage' includes a stable complete with straw. The 15 minute show comprises of carols and biblical text.

The Living Nativity is presented nightly during the Lobethal Lights Festival (from Sunday 10th Dec) at 8.50pm and 9.20pm in front of the Lobethal Lutheran church in the Main Street.

