



WA Lutheran News

May 2008

WA District Convention 2008— Popular Report

Convention theme “Living in the Light, Shining as Lights” and the Geraldton School Camp venue as well as the great country hospitality provided by the Geraldton congregation with help from surrounding parishes were the catalyst for making this 40th an outstanding convention. The convivial Friday evening prelude of local olives and wine from the Chapman Valley set the atmosphere for the days ahead.

The locals were delighted that their previous pastor David Kuss returned from Alice Springs complete with swag. He hosted the Saturday evening 'Abendbrot' with his inevitable string of funny stories while LCA President Mike Semmler entertained us with accounts of his air travel experiences, lost luggage and ultimate arrival in Ghana which also seemed to get lost in transit while we consumed ham on the bone and sauerkraut.

District President Pastor Geoff Burger reported that the LCA now has 40 vacancies and that in WA last year we had 14 pastors. Now we only have 9 of which two or three either receive reduced stipend or no pay. Finding a way to run the district without a president was the big challenge. Pastor Mike Fulwood presented short and long term concepts developed by the pastors. These were discussed in groups by the delegates. The short term outcome was that Pastor Adrian Kitson, Pastor Julian Bayha and Pastor Mike Fulwood will share the pastoral responsibilities of the presidential role and the other responsibilities will be shared by the lay members of DCC, Fred Kroeger (treasurer), Ted King (GCC), Mark Rathjen (schools), Lester Dreckow and Volker Hopfmueller. DCC was empowered to make appointments to fill its vacancies and the LCA WA News editor will be Karen Crouch from Kalgoorlie.

Other business included the Youth (\$4000) and the LCA (\$4934) being benefactors of Rockingham and Dalyellup not calling on their budget subsidies. The Disaster Fund was closed and the balance forwarded to ALWS. We succumbed to the LLL demand that all surplus funds be deposited with them. Later a record was established when the amendment to the LCA WA Constitution to meet LCA requirements was proposed, seconded and moved in less than 10 seconds.

Many excellent reports: Lutheran Homes - \$33,000 distributed to support community projects, James Doecke (LCA Lay Ministry), Lois Pfitzner (Lutheran Schools Association SA/NT/WA), Pastor Richard Mau (Lutheran Media), Andrew Waldhuter (LLL), Glenice Hartwich (LCA Board for Mission), Jenny

Pfitzner (Australian Lutheran World Service) and an outstanding presentation by the Youth team led by Serica Yurisich on their camping ministry.

President Mike Semmler performed the Right of Farewell and presented a memorial pectoral cross to Pastor Geoff Burger who with wife Audrey accepted gifts including photographs of city, ocean and outback representing the breadth of WA and its Lutheran parishes.

There were so many special things that people loved about this synod. All sessions started with singing led by Robin Mann and Adrian Kitson. There was phenomenal camaraderie and support. Everything and everybody worked together in harmony.

The enlightening sermons of President Mike preaching on the Gospel for the day John 9:1-42 and President Geoff on the theme “Living in the Light, Shining as Lights”. The music provided by the Geraldton band. The Sunday service with over 100 in attendance. A loving and untiring effort given by the host congregation. Then there was the amazing spontaneous moment when everyone joined hands while singing Pass My Love Around.

The District Convention 2008 at Geraldton was certainly a great and memorable occasion.

Finally Louise Hampel invited everyone to the 2009 Convention at Duncraig.

Bill Edwards

**Installation of
Pastor Greg Pfeiffer
St John's Northbridge
Sunday 8th June 2pm
You are invited to help us welcome
Pastor Greg and Janet to our Parish and
to WA**



Esperance-Kalgoorlie/Boulder Parish

The Parish AGM was held on the Anzac Day long weekend and a call decision was also made at that time. The Parish has issued a call to Pastor Geoff Havelberg and now prayerfully await the outcome.

During the time without a Pastor the parish continues to grow with several new families joining the Esperance congregation. In Kalgoorlie the congregation is enjoying an influx of families from around Australia and PNG, Zimbabwe and Indonesia. “Our Sunday School has doubled and the car park is getting full” was overhead at morning tea—what a great blessing this growth is to this small congregation.

Ordination of Women Letter from Rev. Mike Semmler

Lutheran Church
of Australia
Rev'd Michael P. Semmler
President

3 April 2008

To all pastors of the LCA,

Re: 2006 General Synod resolution 66 Ordination of Women

FURTHER RESOLVED that Synod establish a task force to determine and implement strategies for promoting greater consensus on the question of the ordination of women.

The task force has been appointed and has had a preliminary meeting and now its first full meeting. The task force would like to give opportunity to any pastor or concerned member of the church to express their views to the task force. The task force does not want to be inundated with material but at the same time does not want to deny the opportunity to respond.

The terms of reference for the task force focus on process. Any response should be limited to that. Your response should not include theological debate, biblical studies, or canvassing of a particular position.

The terms of reference for the task force state, 'the core job of the task force is, on the basis of appropriate research, to recommend strategies for promoting greater consensus on the question of the ordination of women in the LCA. ...'

Key areas of work for the task force to take into consideration include:

- the character of consensus
- the problem of different theological conclusions relevant to the ordination of women
- the variation in beliefs about the impact on church unity
- the methods by which the ordination question has been approached
- the pastoral impact of the long debate on individuals and the Church at large

Submissions should be brief. We would suggest no longer than 1 page.

Submissions can be made by email to:

wo.taskforce@lca.org.au

or by post to Ordination Task Force, Lutheran Church of Australia, 197 Archer St North Adelaide 5005.

Submissions should be made no later than May 31st

Yours in Christ,
(Rev) Dr Mike Semmler

Ocean Forest Lutheran Fellowship 1st Confirmation Service



What a blessing to have Bryce Thompson, Jake Smith, Emma Kitson, Tom Kitson, Ethan Scales, Gabriel Clark and Damon Thompson affirmed as Confirmed members of OFLF on Pentecost Sunday

New Ministry Centre Opens!

Sunday 4th May OFLF dedicated the new centre to the Lord and gave Him thanks for how this new centre has come to be.

DCC News

The Interim Presidency Team met March 12 and worked through ways of structuring the interim arrangements for 2008/09.

Generally, Pastor Mike Fulwood is the person to go to for all matters relating to calls and vacancies and if needed, help in resolving congregational issues.

Pastor Julian Bayha is the person for the Pastors to go to if they have needs/issues.

Pastor Adrian Kitson is the person to go to for the organisation of Pastors Professional Development and District Synod.

Volka Hopfmueller has been elected Chairperson of DCC, Ted King as General Church Council Rep, Fred Kroeger as Treasurer and interim administrator.

Lester Dreckow has been elected minute secretary.

Mark Rathjen continues as Lutheran Schools Association representative.



Have you got any news about your parish or congregation?

Share with the WA District.

I need prayer points, praise points, news and views. Please email your items to: waneews@esbconsult.com

The WA Lutheran News will be available for download from:

<http://www.esbconsult.com/lcawanews/>

In the future you will also be able to download older versions as well. On the website you can also sign up to get an email informing you of when there is a new newsletter ready for download.

Karen Crouch
Editor, WA Lutheran News