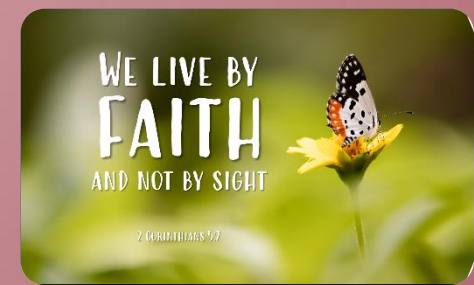


Sermon

2 Corinthians 5:7

‘We live by faith, not by sight’



'We live by faith, not by sight'

2 Corinthians 5:6-17 (NIV)

6 Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are

at home in the body

we are **away from the Lord**. 7 For we live by faith, not by sight. 8 We are confident, I say,

and would **prefer to be away from the body**

and **at home with the Lord**. 9 So we make it

our goal to please him, whether we

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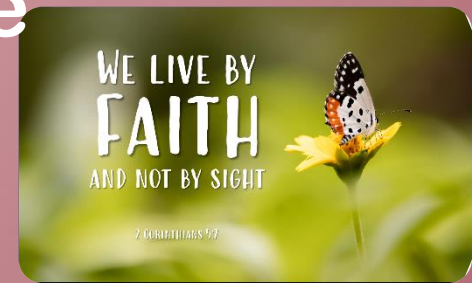


'We live by faith, not by sight'

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‘We live by faith, not by sight’

Romans 12:1 (NIV)

1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.



‘We live by faith, not by sight’

2 Corinthians 5:6-17 (NIV)

10 For we must **all appear** before the **judgment seat** of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is **due us** for the **things done while in the body**, whether good or bad. 11 Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, **we try to persuade others.**



‘We live by faith, not by sight’

2 Corinthians 5:6-17 (NIV)

What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. 12 We are not trying to **commend ourselves** to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to **take pride in us**, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen **rather than in what is in the heart.**



‘We live by faith, not by sight’

2 Corinthians 5:6-17 (NIV)

13 If we are “**out of our mind,**” as some say, it is for God; if we are **in our right mind,** it is for you. 14 For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15 And he died for all, that those who live should **no longer live for themselves** but **for him** who died for them and was raised again.



‘We live by faith, not by sight’

2 Corinthians 5:6-17 (NIV)

16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is **in Christ**, the new creation has come: The **old has gone**, the **new is here!**



‘We live by faith, not by sight’

2 Corinthians 5:6-17 (NIV)

The Holy Spirit is received through faith, hearts are renewed and given new affections, and then they are able to bring forth good works. Ambrose says: Faith is the mother of a good will and doing what is right”.

(AC XX 29–30)



'We live by faith, not by sight'

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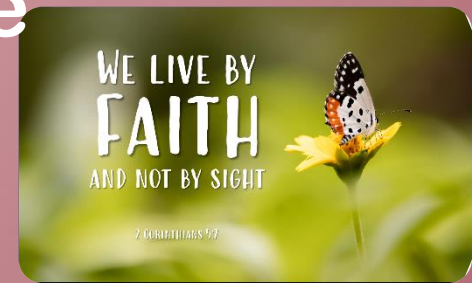


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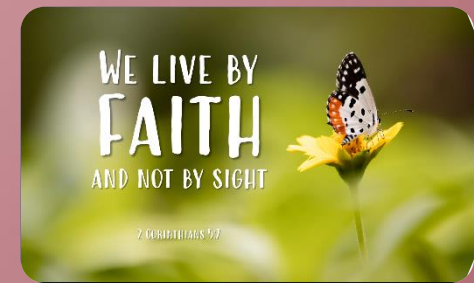


‘We live by faith, not by sight’

2 Corinthians 5:6-17 (NIV)

*Faith is not a bare knowledge of Christ’s
history, but it is God’s gift.*

(FC Ep III 6)



'We live by faith, not by sight'

Hebrews 11 (NIV)

- 1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for.
- 4 By faith Abel ...
- 5 By faith Enoch ...
- 7 By faith Noah...
- 8 By faith Abraham...
- 11 And by faith even Sarah ...



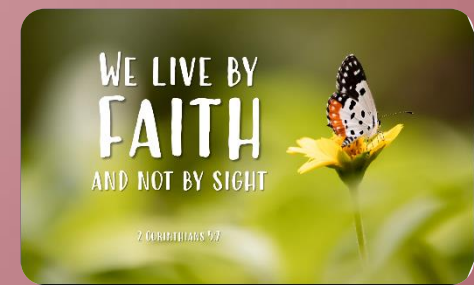
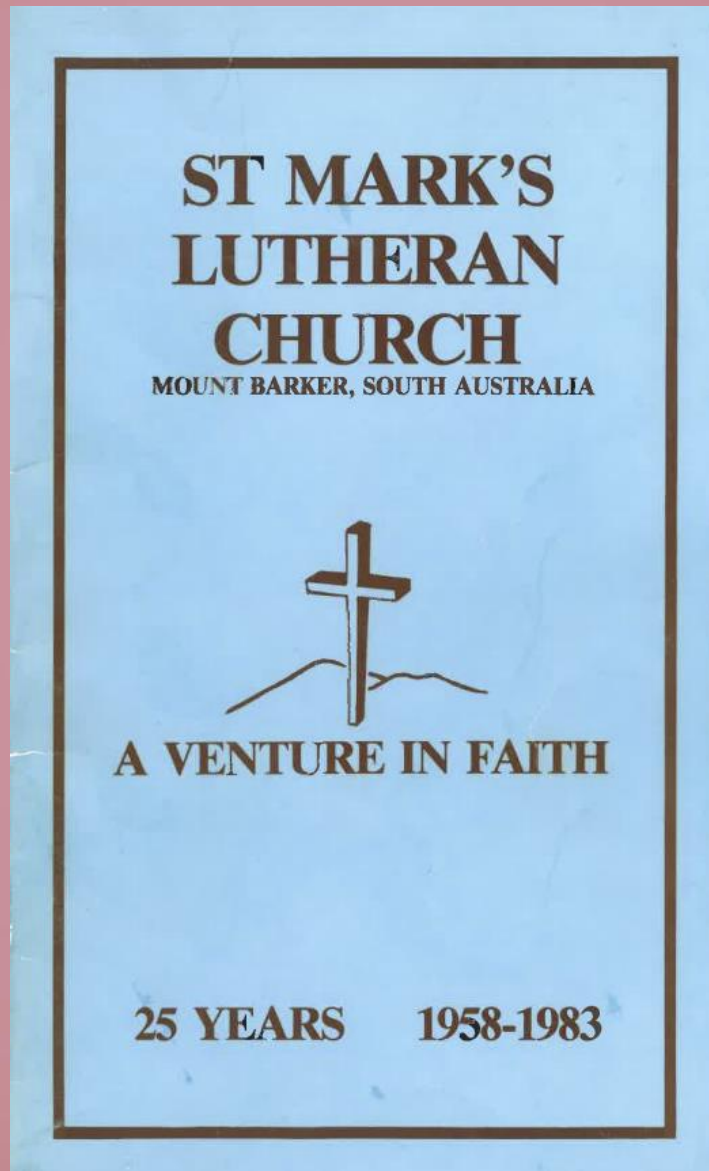
'We live by faith, not by sight'

Hebrews 11 (NIV)

13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.



‘We live by faith, not by sight’



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FOREWORD

A VENTURE IN FAITH

This booklet of the history of St Mark's Lutheran Congregation at Mount Barker has been recorded not for all to read, reminisce, and relax, but rather that it will help us to **remember** how beautiful God has been, to rekindle zeal and determination shown by the founding members in establishing this congregation and finally to reach out in a manner never seen in Mt Barker before. The Harvest is Ripe.

The heading "A Venture in Faith" is not just something picked out for the occasion but it seems to emphasise the spirit upon which this congregation has grown since 1958. A few quotes would be in order:—

IN FAITH . . . The people of Hahndorf decided to hold services in Mt Barker (an area even in 1958 not particularly sympathetic to the "german" church).

IN FAITH . . . Land was purchased and the church hall built without any seemingly feasible way of paying for it.

IN FAITH . . . The members of this congregation decided to hold a 3 month Venture in Faith program which is still believed by many to be a real turning point in the spiritual growth of the congregation.

IN FAITH . . . The manse and Sunday School rooms were built to meet the needs of the area.

IN FAITH . . . Members decided to build their own church at a time when the cost of such a building seemed beyond resources.

IN FAITH . . . A Primary School was established to further cater for the spiritual and social growth of the young in the community.

In all these examples and many others not mentioned the success or accomplishment of them were not the result of efforts or organisation of mere people but "To God Be The Glory". He in His own time and way granted His blessings.

The first twenty five years are now completed. The congregation has grown from a child of the mother church "St Paul's" into adulthood. Will we now accept all the responsibilities and challenges that lie before us and perhaps even think of establishing our own daughter church in the future? Will we continue to "Venture in Faith", in that God's ways are not always our ways, but that whatsoever we plan to do in the future, we will remember the words in Romans 12:11, "Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord".

A VENTURE IN FAITH

The Lutheran Congregation at Mount Barker began as an outreach from St Paul's congregation in the neighbouring town of Hahndorf. Mount Barker was one of the oldest towns in the Adelaide Hills, the centre of the first special land survey undertaken in the country districts of the colony of South Australia in 1838. It had congregations of most of the major churches: the Church of England, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Presbyter-



‘We live by faith, not by sight’



Vision: To know Christ and
to make Christ known in our community
(Philippians 3:10-12, John 17:3)



'We live by faith, not by sight'



Mission: We gather in Jesus' name,
grow in his word
and share his love with others.



'We live by faith, not by sight'

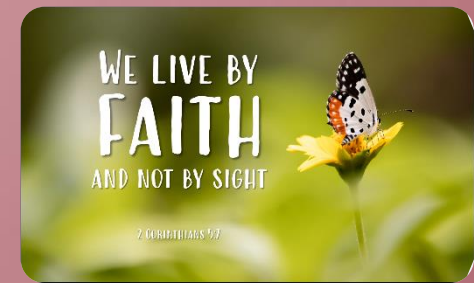
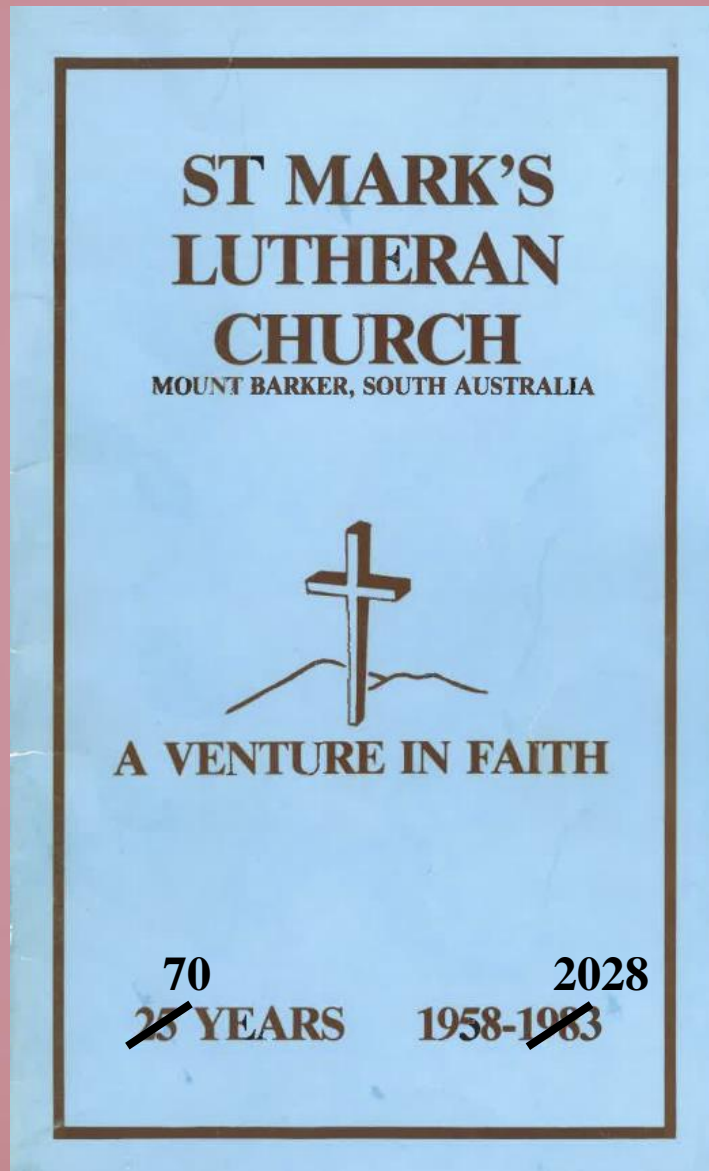


Action: By the grace of God and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we seek to fulfil this mission and vision through:

- 1) a life of worship,
- 2) spiritual growth,
- 3) Christian care,
- 4) school ministry and
- 5) reaching out.



‘We live by faith, not by sight’



Sermon

2 Corinthians 5:7

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