



St Mark's Matters

Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known

Our congregation recently adopted a new vision statement: ‘to know Christ in His word and make Christ known in His world.’ The first phrase comes from Philippians 3:10-12, which talks about Paul’s desire to know Christ personally and powerfully. This is not simply head knowledge, but heart knowledge and life knowledge.

This knowledge is similar to the way we get to know a spouse, family member or close friend. It is the kind of knowing that changes who we are and how we live. Paul writes, ‘I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection’ (v 10a). We gain this knowledge through the gift of God’s word and receive it by faith.

The second phrase flows on from the first. It picks up themes such as John 17:3, where we read, ‘Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.’ Our task as God’s church is not to keep this knowledge to ourselves but to share and promote it to the world, to help others know what we know, and to know who we know.

From this vision, we also have a mission statement, action statement and five key areas of focus. These areas are being picked up by Church Council and through a sermon series in August and September. They are: worship, spiritual growth, Christian care, school ministry and reaching out. The spiritual growth section makes special mention of how we nurture the faith of our young people.

This edition of St Mark’s Matters is focussed on memories of Sunday School and Youth. But these are more than memories. These are activities that formed us in our faith and continue to form the next generation. Our congregation is currently blessed with an active Sunday School, Mainly Music, Playgroup, Kips Hope mentoring, Confirmation class and Junior and Senior Youth groups. These are special opportunities we have to ‘make Christ known’ to the next generation.

As we work through our congregation’s vision statement over the coming weeks, I encourage you to think about ways you can make this statement your own, as you grow in the knowledge of Christ and what he has done for you and take part in his mission in the world. What a privilege that is!

Pastor Ben

In This Issue

Vision statement Pg 2

Regrets pg 3

Thank God Pg 4

Sunday School pg 5

Care groups pg 6

M&Ms pg 7

In Memoriam pg 8

Sunday School pg 9

Mainly music pg 10

Looking Back pg 11

AH Zone pg 12

Past Present Future Pg 14

Published Quarterly in Interests of Members & Friends of St Mark's Lutheran Church Mt Barker

St Mark's Lutheran Church Vision Statement

Adopted May 2022

Vision

To know Christ in his word and make Christ known in his world (Phil 3:10-12, John 17:3)

Mission

We gather in Jesus' name, grow through his word and sacraments, and share his love with others

Action

By the grace of God and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we seek to fulfil this mission and vision through a life of worship, spiritual growth, Christian care, school ministry and reaching out

Worship

We prioritise Sunday worship as integral to our communal life

We continue to explore and implement a rich program of worship, including combined services

We encourage members to use their gifts to enhance our worship life, with a focus on our young members and those gifted in music, technology and visual arts

We explore other worship opportunities that help 'make Christ known'

Spiritual Growth

We prioritise the spiritual growth of our members and contacts

We encourage the Christian education and nurture of our children and youth

We promote opportunities for members to engage in Bible study

We increase opportunities, involvement and congregational focus of small groups

Christian Care

We prioritise Christian care of both members and contacts

We identify the current care activities and the gaps that exist

We ensure effective communication between those people and groups with responsibility for care

We increase awareness of available support for the sake of those in need

School Ministry

We prioritise and build on the current strong bond between St Marks Lutheran Church and St Mark's Lutheran school

We work to establish or reestablish ministry activities that enhance this connection

We actively support the St Mark's School Mission and Ministry subcommittee

We look to develop stronger links with Cornerstone College

Reaching Out

We prioritise and encourage members to see their own vocation and witness, as part of God's mission in the world

We encourage members to identify and use their gifts to serve inside and outside the church

We identify key opportunities for local mission, including exploration of church planting and church/school partnership at Aston Hills

We commit annually to an overseas mission project or focus

Regrets?

I'm getting to an age where I know that the years behind me are more than the years ahead which, much to my wife's frustration, can make me a 'grumpy old man' if we're not doing something I consider constructive.

I think the reason why this is so, comes down to an uneasy realisation I wasted much of my youth on pursuits, thoughts and actions that were nothing but 'wind' and which I now regret. Regrets for past actions are detrimental to how we live in the present. We either decide the days of our youth are long gone so why bother with the here and now, or, we try making amends for our wasted youth by packing so much into our present we don't have time to enjoy it.

The stumbling block behind both of these reactions is guilt. When Adam and Eve sinned and ate the fruit they had been forbidden to eat, they decided their life of open and constructive communication with God and each other was over. God on the other hand had a better solution "Fess up!" Whilst Adam and Eve's confessions sadly resulted in a 'blame game', it did allow them to move on in their present instead of wallowing in their past.

After the prophet Nathan convicted King David of the sins of murdering Uriah, and adultery with Bathsheba and declared their baby would die, David 'worked' day and night trying to convince God to change His mind. But God had a better solution. The death of the baby was a constant reminder to them of their need for God's grace and their next baby was born out of love and liberty instead of lust and lies. Satan's negative use of conviction is one of his major weapons. Throughout the bible we read of him constantly using this weapon to try and derail God's plan of salvation for the world. I often wonder about the battle that must have raged in the mind and conscience of Peter after that rooster crowed three times. I believe the only thing that gave him the strength to gather in that locked room with the other disciples just a few days later was remembering the words, "I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." (Luke 22:32) We can only imagine what Jesus' greeting "Peace be with you" would have meant to Peter at that first reunion with the risen Jesus.

Peace – it's something we all desire. Peace of mind, peace in our heart, peace and quiet, peace, everlasting peace. How do I know peace for a mind troubled by the thoughts of a wasted youth? I often pray that the LORD's promise to Abraham, "You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age." (Genesis 15:15) will be His promise to me but what use is a good old age if we don't get there "in peace"? Peace isn't something we should hope for at the end but something we should live in until we reach the end. Jesus lived a life of peace, peace with the people He encountered and peace with the journey He walked, even though He knew the end of His journey would be anything but peaceful. He promised to give His peace to all who put their faith in Him when He said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you." (John 14:27) The peace of Jesus is a peace that "transcends all understanding" and it will "guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7)

IContinued

Regrets Continued

The peace of Jesus is a peace that “transcends all understanding” and it will “guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:7) I often find my heart and mind troubled by past regrets only to be told, often from the lips of my wife, that I need to live in the peace that is only found in my relationship with Jesus and when I refocus on that everything else finds its proper place in my world and I remember the words of this hymn,

“When peace like a river attendeth my way,

when sorrows like sea billows roll;

whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."

Mark Frost

THANK GOD FOR GIVING ME SO MUCH JOY TODAY

They are the words of Mai Duong, who had been part of 200 people I was privileged to teach in Vietnam from 9-11 August. We do this teaching via Zoom, every month for three days. I taught mainly from Mark’s Gospel. Maria shared her testimony and introduced some of the women of the Bible. People were very responsive and said they learnt so much, and went on their way rejoicing.

Mai Duong went to lead a group of children in worship, taught them about Jesus, shared a meal together, and spent much time talking about Jesus. Then she went on to a family to testify to Jesus, and the whole family believed in Jesus as the Saviour of their lives.

I wonder what the other 199 people did after being part of Valbi, the Vietnam-Australia-Lutheran-Bible-Institute, run by AFA which St Marks is supporting this year. These people are so keen to learn about Jesus, so committed to sharing Jesus with others, and so excited to worship God. Thank you that you are part of this ministry to Vietnam by supporting it through St Marks.

“Thank God for giving me so much joy today.” These are my words too. The ministry in Vietnam gives much joy and praise to God in Asia and in Australia.

David Christian



People receiving a radio with New Testament in it. They are given these and listen to these after people we support witness to them and lead them to Christ. Through these radios they hear and learn the Word of God.

Sunday School Memories

1957 Fifteen children attended the first Sunday school, Teachers where Mr Reg Gallasch, Ms Wagner, Betty Sickel and Mr Milton Page.

1964 A vacation Bible school was held. Fifteen members were helpers and teachers and up to forty-seven children attended.

1967/68 More vacation Bible schools were held. Mr Reg Gallasch stood down as SS superintendent and Mrs Gallasch took his place. Numbers were 57 to 71. The SS was held in a Housing trust building purchased for \$100. Plans were drawn up for SS rooms adjacent to the hall.

1976 The old building was sold for \$250. And the new rooms built. Ms Betty Sickel was superintendent. She was a very dedicated Christian despite being blind. She set up an altar in the SS. Graham remembers he had to light the alter candles as Betty could not see them.

Graham remembers the Christmas plays which were held outside the hall on a truck. Harry Van Ek bought a donkey and Mary was led into the church yard.

Contributed by Graham Heinrich, details from the "venture in faith" booklet

I remember teaching SS for one year. I remember I was given only a few resources. I do not think I made a good teacher. One Sunday the theme was "feeding the five Thousand". I bought in my frypan and cooked fish for the children!

The church picnic was always an enjoyable day. It was often held at Harrogate. One year Graham Foyle and I were in charge of the kid's games. We decided to have an "apple bob". However, we filled the buckets too full of water and flour. The kids were covered in the mixture and the parents were not happy. We were never asked again to do the games.

Michael Pfeiffer



MINISTRY IN OUR CAREGROUPS.

During the last 18 months I've had the privilege of being in the role of Pastoral Assistant for an amazing group of 19 members from our congregation.

This is where I got to say hello to Lois Kathleen Jones and more recently to say goodbye as she moved to her new heavenly address.

Lois was able to join the Care group after supporting her granddaughter Sharna and great granddaughter Everleigh when they were baptised together at St Marks. Sharna and Everleigh are also part of our Care group.

When Sharna moved to the city, Lois was no longer able to get to church, so I took on that role in Sharna's absence.

What an opportunity that was to connect to Lois in a deeper way.

Many of you would know the story how I found her one Sunday morning as I went to collect her, finding her on the kitchen floor having suffered a stroke.

Through that time of 6 months until her death, our Care group had the opportunity to pray for Lois and her family. It was wonderful to be able to CONNECT with Lois' family during that time. They really appreciated the care that was shown. We'll never know perhaps what seeds were shown in her family.

What a beautiful celebration of her life at her recent funeral at St Paul's Hahndorf. Perhaps about 300 in attendance including the Mayor. There were beautiful reflections by many including our own Allan Meissner. Lois had her funeral all prepared with 4 hymns chosen. The message from Pastor Ben was a plea to all in attendance to one day be able to join in the hope and joy that Lois is now enjoying. It was based on the passage from 2 Timothy 4: 6-8.

And a wonderful afternoon tea in the hall afterwards provided by the St Paul's ladies. I didn't see any jelly slice though!!

Lois was famous for her jelly slice. I remember her bringing it to one of our Care group get togethers last year.

The funeral booklet said -

A selfless, kind and generous lady, who gave total devotion to her family.

Obviously she meant a lot to many people in the community too (a dedicated CWA member over many years), to have so many in attendance at her funeral.

Lois had just taken on the role of helping Myrna in the knitting of the little lambs we present at the baptisms. One was ready to show me that dreadful Sunday morning. The family had it on show at the funeral.

I give thanks for the short time I had getting to know Lois.

I very much value all the members in our Care group and how we can CONNECT through this ministry to each other.

Doors open when we CONNECT to one another through our Care groups. God has an open door to us so why would we not also open our door to others in whatever way we can.

May we all not be peeking out the peephole but really flinging our doors open to serve Him. Amen.

Jane Hill Pastoral Assistant

M & Ms



Our MnM's session for the month of May was an Art class presented by Annette Cavies. With an attendance of 13, each attendee got to paint from a photo of a poppy in acrylics onto their own canvas. It was amazing how different they all looked at the end. It was the first time painting with acrylics for some but all enjoyed the opportunity to dapple. "Marys and Marthas" (MnM's) is held on the third Tuesday of each month. 6.30pm start. Watch for details from the bulletins.

In Memoriam



Enice Schroeder

born 9-10-1925 Died 26-04 2022 aged 97 years.

Enice joined St Marks with her late husband Roy in 1968 and faithfully attended St Mark's. She taught most of her life at Mt Barker Primary School and Mt Barker High School. She served as first superintendent of St Mark's Sunday School and a member of the Women's Fellowship. She passed away peacefully at Carlyle on the Cross Myrtle Bank.



Mary Clothier

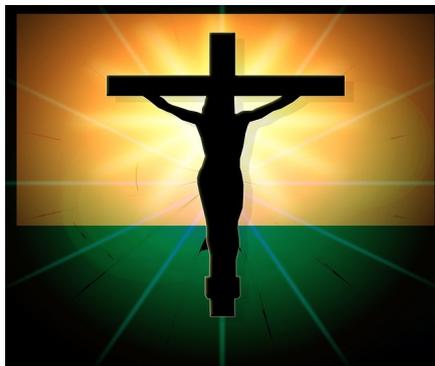
born 07-01-1921 died 21-06-2022 aged 101 years.

Mary and her late husband Frank were foundation members of St Mark's since 1958 and was a faithful attender until recent years as well as active in the Women's Fellowship until she entered Hahndorf Nursing Home where she passed away peacefully. Mary and family lived at Cherryville until the Ash Wednesday fire consumed the property and they relocated to Mt Barker.

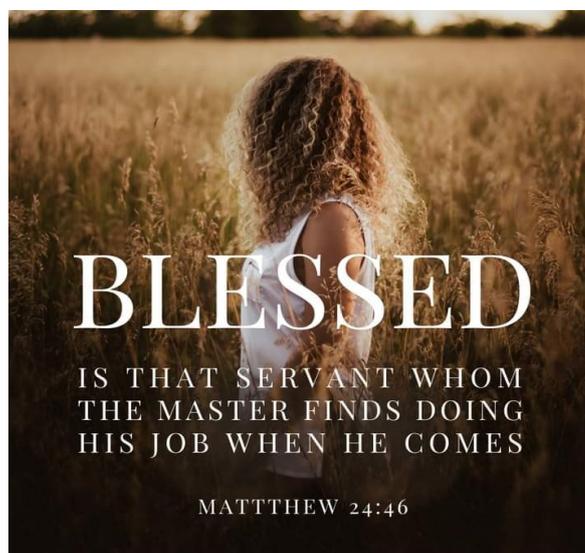
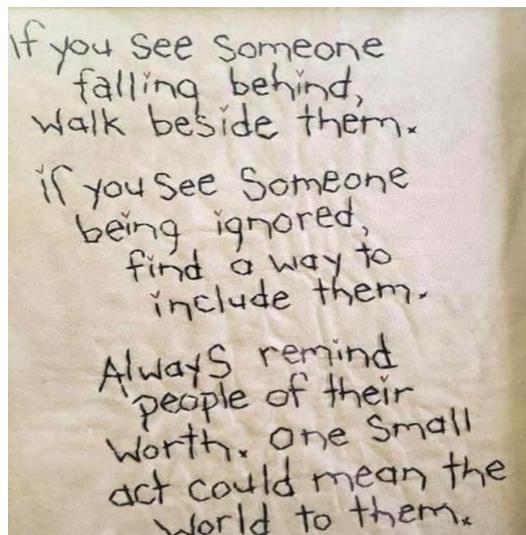
Lois Jones born 1-03-1937

Died 03-07-2022 aged 85 years.

A member of St Marks for over 50 years. In her younger years she was employed at Immanuel College and later in Mt Barker. She was an active member of the CWA and won many awards. Lois Jones died at Clayton Homes Woodside the day after she went from there from Mount Barker Hospital. Prior to a stroke, Lois had lived at her own home in Mount Barker. Lois was a member of St Pauls, Hahndorf for most of her life, but she had been attending St Marks on a regular basis for over a year.



Here and There



St Mark's Sunday School – present day update

St Mark's Sunday School meets each Sunday of the school term. We start at 9:45am and spend about half an hour learning about a lectionary reading or select theme. Our learning might include a Bible reading, a short clip, a game, a craft, a discussion, an activity, or a combination of these. A group of 4-5 teachers take turns leading the sessions.

In Term 2 we moved back into the Church Hall. This resulted in warmer sessions, but made us less visible to the wider congregation. If you find yourself in a fellowship lull one day between services, please come and visit us. See what the children are doing, listen to their questions, and ask them about their activities.

There are a number of children in Sunday School that are now school age. This means that they are more able to read Bible passages, lead prayer, and connect themes and ideas between sessions. Exciting times! Since last writing for St Mark's Matters a few of our highlights include:

- Pentecost and Trinity Sunday. It was evident that across these two weeks the children significantly built on their understanding of the Trinity.
- Sharing in the Sprau's welcome home with a mission focus. We had a large number of children in attendance that Sunday and Rebekah Wright led a hands-on activity that helped the children think through the work of a missionary, including its challenges and blessings.
- Receiving the news that we received a thoughtful monetary donation from the Bart family. This news generated great discussion within Sunday School and across the church's other children's programs of how this money could be used. We thank the Bart's for their donation and for the conversation that it sparked. The Education and Nurture committee are collecting ideas.

We have such wonderful, thoughtful, caring, funny and creative children at St Mark's. We thank God for them and for the parents, grandparents and friends that help them as they grow.

Meghan Pfeiffer.

Mainly Music

“**F**lower gardens don't begin with flowers.

They don't even begin with seeds. They begin with desire and vision, and they begin with ordinary dirt.”

A quote from Christie Purifoy, the author of *Garden Maker*.

A new team was established this year following on from many years of faithful service to this ministry, by several young mums in our congregation. We acknowledge their service and the fact that they left the new team a strong legacy to follow.

So the new team consisting of Annette Cavies, Lauren Kuchel, Julie Pfeiffer, Philippa Barnett-Pierce, me and a recent new member to the team Helaine Stanton (a mum of 2 from the mm community).

Following on from using the quote above, we have begun as dirt, with very green shoots but a strong desire and vision. We aim to become **soil**. Our fertiliser is God. We aware that we can't do this ministry alone and rely heavily on prayer. It is indeed an expectation of the mainlyministries.org organisation that the team are prayerful, focussed on petitioning God for connections with families that attend each Monday, asking God for inspiration, praising God for His activity and watching where Jesus is working- and joining Him in this work.

Another expectation is that you as our supporting church will honour the relationship the team has as volunteers and will offer support and help at any time it is requested.

This is already evident with the strong presence of help we receive from many in the kitchen each Monday. You give of your time so freely and also your gift of supplying a delicious morning tea to the families who attend. I thank Val Schild, Yvonne Menz, Lyndall Schielbs and Naomi Heinrich who head up the kitchen team at mm and support the many helpers on the roster.

We can never have enough helpers. You may not have the time to attend but have you thought about supplying the morning tea occasionally? You may not wish to be in the kitchen, but have a spare lap for the many babies who attend or a listening ear as you support a young mum or dad. Yes we have stay at home dads too so this ministry is just not limited to females. We would love to see some male ears as well. You are most welcome to just come and be. Please speak to Annette or myself if you can see yourself serving in this way. We have also seen evidence of you being able to help.....we asked for flowers etc for a mother's day craft and you provided, we asked for ice cream containers for makeshift drums and you provided, we asked for old scarvs and you provided. The mm team thank you so much.

So our **mainly music garden** is growing and maturing with God as the fertiliser and we as the team (mm team and congregation members), are turning from dirt into soil.

Amen!

Jane Hill mm co-leader

Looking Back or Forward

When I read the theme for this St Mark's Matters, I wondered how many different interpretations of personal history would emanate. Whilst history should never be ignored as a means of learning to improve the future, it can be obscured by the past memories of the orator. My memories of Sunday School of now many years past, did not enthuse or inspire me, however Christian education each day at St Michael's was intense. Memories can distort history if they based on current events or feelings and not on factual detail. There is an old saying "the older I get, the better I was", which typifies how history, if not recorded when it happens, can be somewhat embellished. So I come back to the theme and will the memories of our past change the future of this congregation. Let it be so.

Thomas Jefferson once wrote "I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past."

What are the dreams of members for the future of Sunday School, Youth Ministry, or School here at St Mark's. A positive history is usually created as a reflection of a challenging vision bearing fruit. It is very easy to complain about the present and bask about the fruits of the past, life will still go on but nothing changes for the better. St Mark's exists because of a vision presented by an American theologian Dr Dybvig in the 1950's challenging a nearby congregation to understand how to implement an outreach program. In just six months two worship centres were created and St Mark's grew from an infant to become bigger than the parent. A vision of a future became more productive than the history of the past!

Hilary Mantel writes "The past changes a little time every time we retell it", so true!

Let us dream dreams, focus on a vision for the future and see how God blesses it.

"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Romans 15 v 4."

The spread of the Lutheran Church

After the Reformation, the Lutheran church went through times of internal dissension and was beset by external perils of various kinds, culminating in the horror of the Thirty Years War. In these years Lutheranism had to define and defend itself, and this is called the period of orthodoxy. Eventually, it was agreed that people should basically follow their leaders: if the duke is Catholic, his people should be too; if the prince is Lutheran, his people should follow him. Following this pattern, various regional churches developed in Germany, whereas in the Nordic sphere entire nations followed their rulers in becoming Lutheran.

When northern Europeans began to be involved in colonial expansion, those from a Lutheran background took their faith with them and over a period of time established new Lutheran churches. German and Nordic Lutherans settled in the new world of the Americas, and later in countries such as South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. A movement for renewal in the life of the church called pietism was the impetus for mission both at home and abroad. Lutheran missionaries took their evangelical faith to many parts of the world such as India, Asia, Africa, Madagascar, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. Over a period of time, these missions grew up to become young independent Lutheran churches with indigenous leaders. The faith communities that grew out of the Lutheran movement are often called evangelical Lutheran churches. The word 'evangelical' shows that they are committed to preaching, teaching and living out the gospel of Christ.

In 1838 a group of devout Lutherans led by Pastor August Kavel left Germany because of persecution and settled in the new colony of South Australia. A month before their arrival Lutheran missionaries arrived at the same place to begin work among the Indigenous Australian people. These two events mark the beginning of the Lutheran story in Australia.

'Considering the Future of our Adelaide Hills Zone'

Summary by Annette Cavies, Vice Chairperson from Meeting 31st August 2022
at St Pauls Lutheran Church Hahndorf.

Format presented and directed by Greg Francis, Chairperson, St Pauls Lutheran Congregation, Hahndorf.

Proceedings led by Assistant Bishop Stephen Schultz giving an introduction on statistics and ministerial situations, with all Lutheran churches of the Adelaide Hills Zone represented by at least one member from their church or school as well as guest representatives from Victor Harbor congregation.

Those represented included: St Pauls Church Hahndorf and the Aged Care facility Hahndorf, Strathalbyn congregation and also incorporating Salem and Callington congregations, St Michaels Church and School Hahndorf, St Marks Church and School Mt Barker, Bridgewater, Lobethal, Nairne, Birdwood, Springhead, Woodside, Victor Harbor congregations with apologies from Goolwa.

Each church was asked to pre-consider and present a brief talk on the answers to four questions below.

What is your current situation regarding Pastoral position/s for your site, and do you anticipate any problem in maintaining that in the near future?

Summarised answers - most churches have a current minister, not all are full time, some share their minister across a parish, one congregation is currently looking to call another minister. Pastor Stephen emphasised the statistics on current availability of ministers in South Australia showing that it is not reasonable to expect that all vacancies will be filled – at least permanently or not for an extended length of time. This opens up the need to think of other ways to service congregational needs without the guarantee of an overseeing 'Shepherd' as we have known it.

From St Marks, Annette as rep of the congregation and Casey Pfeiffer as rep of the School spoke of our blessings with our current minister Pastor Ben and his role with the school and his work with our congregation. However, they both also spoke of the experiences of what has to happen during the vacancies of a Minister as we are not immune to the long periods between calls.

What are your site's gifts/strengths and challenges?

There are many aged buildings and assets amongst the older standing congregations who are now struggling to fund their maintenance. In a couple of instances there are heritage buildings as part of their assets. Springhead was a strong example of the struggles in that they no longer have a supporting school attached to their congregation but they still have a large asset of buildings and land that they have to deal with.

There were positives from some congregations. St Marks for example is well facilitated and can also make extra income from the assets.

What do the other congregations/schools/aged care facilities in our zone need to know about your place and maintaining God's work there?

Most congregations spoke of their ageing membership. The struggles to supply musicians from week to week, the struggles to finance and upkeep their facility. The struggles to employ staff when they really need it. The struggles to fill positions on Councils sufficiently. The complication to fulfil some of the Governance demands due to lack of staffing and support.

For schools the struggle is to uphold enrolments with the growing competition and also maintain Lutheran representatives on Council.

What do you envision/hope for future collaboration with other entities in our zone?

Although it is difficult to summarise any outcomes from what was presented, the question of several congregations was the need for sharing of resources – say in the case of running Councils, sharing occasional musicians, combining Governance bodies, and generally ideas for filling financial needs.

As this presentation used up most of the given time allowing each group to be heard sufficiently, the agenda did not extend to much discussion. Brief notes were taken of the speeches but there was no time for identifying the key messages and reporting back. Continued overpage.

Another ministry opportunity.

Have you considered volunteering at the Day Options program run by HCO on the grounds of the property owned by Hillview Lutheran Services to the Disabled?

There lots of ways to help. Gardening, music, art, sewing, chatting, just being there really. Another way to connect to those in our community that need to be recipients of God's love.

Recently a member of our congregation has gone to the program to share her sewing gifts. Some of the ladies from Women's fellowship are always making bags for Lutheran Care.

We decided to see if the clients were interested in helping them with the project. With three sewing machines and 4 clients (two of them young men) the project was underway and another connection formed.

Please speak to any of the members from the Hillview Board if you'd think you'd like to get involved.

Other board members are; David Schild, Paul Andrejic, Angela Strauss, Judith Paech, Val Schild and James Ziersch.

Jane Hill

HVLSD Board member.



The future of the Adelaide Hills Zone continued.

Assistant Bishop Stephen Schultz then summarised and encouraged everyone to complete feedback sheet as to whether people feel that further discussion needs to take place in the future. There was a general feeling that most congregation reps wanted the conversations to continue, but as to how that will occur is yet to be formalised

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

The past has matters of importance to teach us, sadly, we mostly don't learn from the past; we keep repeating so much that is not helpful, at times even destructive. The changes in the last 100 years+ are mind-boggling. Almost everything has become bigger, faster, more expensive and, let's face it, time consuming. This can bring on feelings of weariness and exhaustion that for many different reasons weigh heavily on so many people, including pastors. It sometimes takes illness, death or calamity to slow us down and take stock of our situation.

Today is a present to be enjoyed; tomorrow is a gift yet to be experienced. Where do you see yourself today? What are your priorities as a Christian? *'So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.'* Colossians 3:1-4. Seeing yourself 'in Christ' is a good way to start each day, to live the present as a redeemed, dearly loved child of God.

We don't know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future! We may try to contemplate what the future holds for coming generations, our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Those of us older folk who grew up in very different times and circumstances mostly feel very blessed. Past times had challenges that younger folk find hard to imagine. Life was much more physical and hands-on, without many of the privileges and comforts, the many appliances and devices we enjoy (or are frustrated by) today.

The way we 'did church' was different in the past. We used hymn books to sing hymns and followed the same liturgies year in year out. The pastor led the whole service and sometimes had to leave early to conduct worship in another part of the parish. That still happens today! So, how are we 'doing church' in the present? Is the church relevant to the times we find ourselves in? These are uncomfortable questions as we contemplate the future of the church!

Are you aware of the desperate shortage of pastors and parishioners in the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand? Congregations are being put together into large multi-point parishes, some served by one pastor with the help of retired pastors. St Marks is relatively well off in terms of worship attendance but think how many more people could be a part of the mission and ministry of the congregation. There are many exciting ministries taking place at St Marks, (see other reports in this issue of St Marks Matters) but there's room for many more right in your sphere of influence. The challenge is to find ways outside of the four walls of the building to reach our community with the Good News of God's Kingdom; to connect with the many broken, hurting people, people who need the love, acceptance and grace that Jesus offers to them through us. The world seems to be crumbling around us. We turn to politicians to sort out the issues that trouble us, but they also are human.

As Christians, we are privileged to be loved and graced by God in Jesus. We cannot take that for granted when so many are ignorant or dismissive of our loving God. Thinking outside of the square of how we've always 'done church' can be disconcerting. The status quo is in need of a serious update! We believe prayer changes things, but do we pray earnestly for the things and situations where we want to see change? God alone can bring about the present and future we long for. Let's all pray and trust God for ministry and mission as we open ourselves to a joyful, Holy Spirit-filled present and future as God's people. To be the place(s), the people where love and hope come to life!

CHURCH REGISTER

For St Marks Matters, Pastoral Acts from 1st April – 1st August 2022

Baptisms

Date	Name	Born	Parents
1/5/22	Tommy Lamborn	13/1/22	Sam & Gemma Lamborn
31/7/22	Darcie Kelly	7/5/20	Ben & Desi Kelly

Weddings

Date	Bride	Groom	Location
9/4/22	Rachel da Costa	Hayden Kemp	Oakbank

Membership In

Date	Name	From
15/5/22	Nathaniel Brooke & Hannah Noll	Woodside & Warrnambool
15/5/22	Hayden & Rachel Kemp	Horsham, Vic
15/5/22	Trevor Liebelt	St Michael's, Hahndorf
26/6/22	Des & Pauline Schild	Strathalbyn
26/6/22	David & Kerry Simpendorfer	Rochedale, Qld

Funerals

Date	Name	Died	Location
5/5/22	Enice Schroeder	26/4/22	St Mark's Mt Barker
30/6/22	Mary Clothier	21/6/22	St Paul's Hahndorf
15/7/22	Lois Jones	3/7/22	St Paul's Hahndorf
15/8/22	Hilary Alice Moore		St Marks Mt Barker

The Matters Editorial team

Editor: Michael Pfeiffer

Proof-reader: Joy Christian

Photographer: Sharon Heyne

Contact St Mark's

Our Pastor– Ps. Ben Pfeiffer. Tel 0402 825 173
Email <pfeiffer241@gmail.com

Chairman: Ian Pfeiffer

Church Secretary: Janice Cecil 8391 1695 (office)

Worship Coordinator: Sharon Heyne

School Principal: James Heyne 8391 0444 (School)

POSTAL ADDRESS: St Mark's Lutheran Church,
PO Box 836, Mt Barker SA 5251

St Marks 
Lutheran Church
SHARING THE LOVE OF JESUS

35 Hampden Rd Mt Barker

HOME

ABOUT US

PASTOR & STAFF

MINISTRIES

CALENDAR

PUBLICATIONS

SERMONS

MEMBERS

NEWS

CONTACT US

CHRISTMAS EVE @ ST MARKS



Keep updated using the web site or having the Sunday bulletin delivered each Friday by email by registering online. St Marks Matters is also distributed electronically to our growing list of registered users.



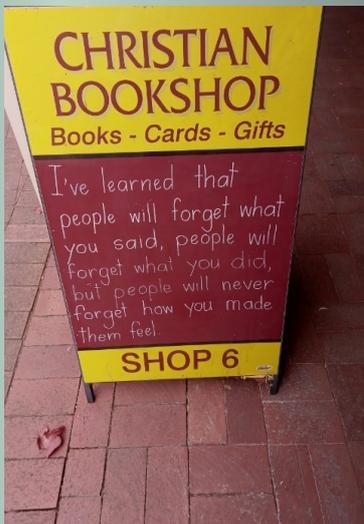
Vogt Wedding



Out & About At St Marks



It has been a privilege to publish St Mark's Matters .



The Editor Thanks You!

