



Winter 2022

Issue



# St Mark's Matters

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

The term Pentecost comes from the Greek Πεντηκοστή (Pentecost), meaning "fiftieth". It refers to the Jewish festival of Shavuot celebrated on the fiftieth day after Passover. It is also known as the "Feast of Weeks" [i] and the "Feast of 50 days" in rabbinic tradition.



## **CROSS-ROADS**

**Life is full of cross-roads**

**Choices we must make**

**Whether to go forward, left or right**

**Or even to go back**

**Do we follow 'instinct'**

**Hope that it is right?**

**Or do we follow people's**

**Well intentioned advice?**

**Do we jump in blindly**

**Trusting in so called 'fate'?**

**Or do we weigh all options**

**Until one tips the scales?**

**There is One who knows all things**

**Knows the way to go**

**But it's up to us to ask**

**For Him to show us so**

**He has a plan for our lives**

**A road that we must travel**

**A road that always has been there**

**Yesterday, today and tomorrow**

**So don't worry when cross-roads come**

**To make you doubt and stumble**

**Just ask the One who knows all things**

**To show you His direction**

**Mark Frost**

## Broken

In the home I grew up in, it was not good if a piece of crockery was broken. Perhaps you broke your arm or leg. Right now you might be recovering from a part of your body that was 'broken.' Maybe it's my age showing but we're living in times where brokenness is rife! Even as God's people, we're broken, despite the new nature we have as the precious gift from a loving God. The relationship God wants to have with us is broken because so many people turn away from the very One who dearly loves us and wants everyone to have a loving relationship.

No wonder there are broken hearts, and broken lives. The list goes on as we see broken families, broken communities, broken nations that add up to a broken world. The pain of seeing and experiencing the personal loss and destruction of so many people in so many places, is almost unbearable as we see vision of wars, natural disasters and people's inhumanity to their own. It's a difficult reality to face that even you and I are broken, to a greater or lesser extent. We are the Church, the Body of Christ so we expect things might be better. Sadly, in a world so broken, even those who follow Jesus are not exempt from broken hearts and broken relationships. Unlike broken crockery, fractured limbs and broken relationships can be healed if the will is there. Is there a broken relationship that is spoiling your life and that of another, or others right now? *"The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed."* Psalm 34:18 Jesus wants to bandage our broken, wounded relationships and restore our love for him and each other.

The Church is broken, let's face it, fractured by differing interpretations of Scripture, sexual abuse and more, resulting in a loss of credibility in the eyes of the world. Standing together in Jesus is our best option, our only hope and witness for a wholesome, stable community of believers in Jesus. The broken community needs to see Jesus as the source of our joy, our hope our togetherness, through Jesus, our Wounded Healer, our Great and Glorious Physician. We desperately need to put aside the things that divide us as the Body of Christ. Jesus, in his own home town read the scripture from Isaiah 61:1 *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."* Let us delight greatly in the Lord, rejoice in the Lord, find our source of true joy and unity in Jesus. Let's celebrate our oneness in embracing each other as proclaimers of the good news of God's Kingdom; God's grace and love in Jesus for each one of us! This is our calling as dearly loved children of God. There's a broken community out there, and within our denomination of the Church. Each and every one whom God has created is meant for relationship. Can you be the healing hands, heart and love of Jesus to the broken someone in your sphere of influence, no matter how small your contribution might seem?

Before Jesus left this earth, he had a heart to heart prayer with his Father. This prayer for Jesus' followers is found in the Gospel of John, chapter 17. I invite you to join me in reading and meditating on Jesus' prayer and the unity we have in him, as he, the Father and the Holy Spirit are one.

Joy Christian



Sometimes life is a scorching desert

Sometimes a raging sea

Sometimes a dried up river bed

Sometimes a bubbling spring

One day you're riding on a wave

Or soaring like an eagle

The next you find you're down and out

Feeling weak and feeble

Life is not consistent

A straight and forward path

But is full of ups and downs

Of cross-roads and dead-ends

Life is no big road map

With destinations marked

But a voyage of adventure

Without compass, without chart

There is only One who knows

The path that we are taking

Whether it will lead us up or down

To a cross-road or a dead-end

We wonder why He 'never' says

"Go this way! Not that one!"

Is it because He's teaching us?

Or is it because we don't listen?

## LIFE IS

We know He knows what is best for us

And that He would never hurt us

Yet we often continue blindly on

Never asking for His direction

If only we would start each day

By stopping at His footstool

Asking Him to guide our steps

And smooth out all the pitfalls

When Jesus walked upon this Earth

He said "Come follow me"

"Follow in my footsteps"

"And put your faith in Me"

"My path isn't easy"

"For you must carry your own cross"

"But follow in my footsteps" "

And you will not be lost"

"For I have been before you"

"To triumph over Satan and death"

"So fear not the path you must tread"

For your life I came to bless" Mark Frost

## In the style of Psalm 23

The TV is our shepherd; we want for nothing else.  
It maketh us want to lie down on the soft sofa:  
It leadeth us away from exercise and more useful pursuits.  
It destroyeth our self-discipline:  
It leadeth us into hours of addictive telly watching  
And mindless reality TV for  
No good reason.

Yea, while we work through an entire box set,  
We will fear the evil influence of too much vulgarity and violence:  
The remote and the TV guide they alone comfort us.

We prepareth TV snacks in the presence of our family,  
Our cups runneth over.  
Shared meals and conversation desert us as we gain square eyes,

Surely goodness and mercy shall abandon us all the days of our lives:  
As we mindlessly dwell in front of the TV forever.

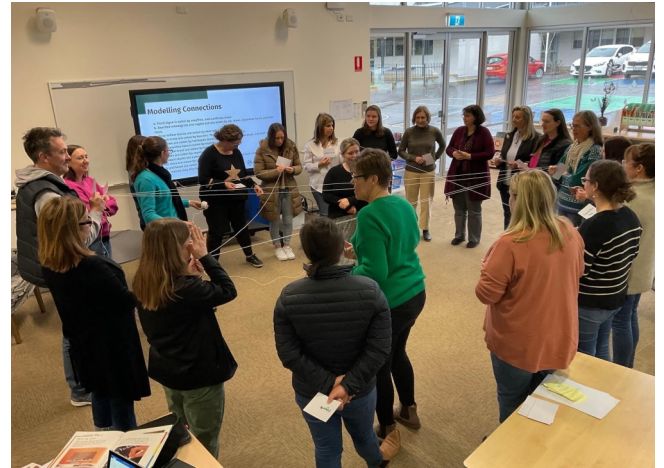
A Sunday School teacher gave her youngsters a month to learn the words of Psalm 23.  
Little Ricky struggled to remember all the words. In fact , he could barely get past the first line.

On the day that the group were invited to recite the psalm for the church, Ricky was so nervous  
that when it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said,  
“The Lord is my Shepherd and ..... and that’s all I need to know”.  
How very true!

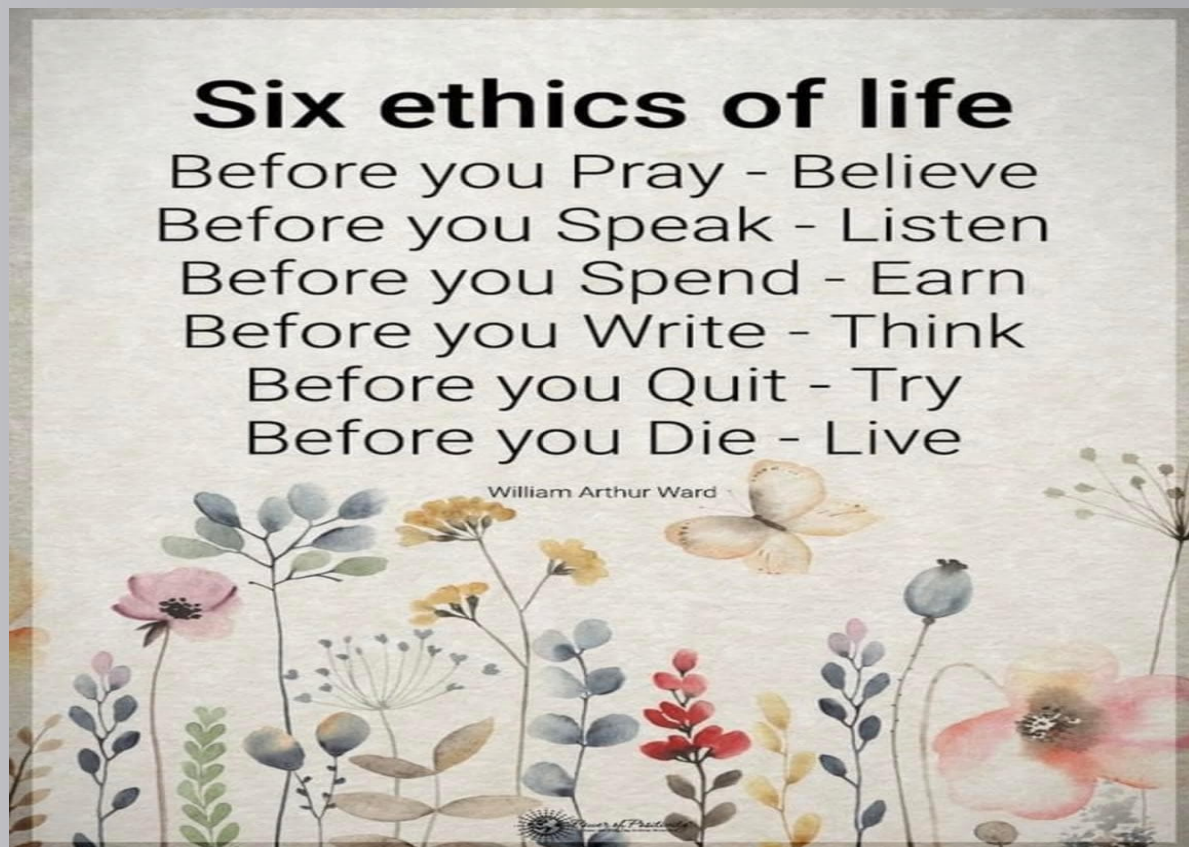
From a book called Blunders and blessings



# St Marks School



## ***Here and There***



### **THE WAY FORWARD.**

The Synod of the LCA in Melbourne in March spent much time debating proposals on the Ordination of Men and Women. A strong majority of voters directed the church to explore and present to 2024 Synod in Adelaide how one church with two ordination practices might function. Eight working groups have been formed to prepare a proposal for 2024 Synod. Over 100 people took up the opportunity to submit ideas to the working groups. The proposal or proposals that flow from this will be forwarded to pastors before the next Pastor's Conference, and also to all delegates well before next General Synod. The church has asked all members and congregations to pray for God to guide the church as it moves forward in its ministry and mission. Jesus says: the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into the harvest field.

David Christian.

# Pastor Ben Pfeiffer's installation



Thanks Ian for the lovely greeting today ...It made me tear up. The service went very well very long but it was good and the children were very patient. Meghan

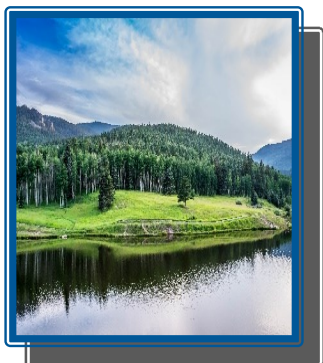
## Men's Shed at Paechs



The mens shed recently met at Steve and Bev's Paechs property. Jon Footner cooked gourmet sausages for lunch and gave a talk on the history of the sausage. The day was enjoyed by all who attended.

# CALLING ALL LADIES AT ST MARKS

A wonderful opportunity to join in with other like minded Christian women, you are



## INVITED

to come along to the SA-NT Women's Retreat for study, fellowship, entertainment and fun.

**THEME:** Our theme... '**BESIDE STILL WATERS**'

**WHEN:** 21-22<sup>nd</sup> October 2023

**WHERE::** St Marks Church, Link and hall in Mt Barker

**WHAT TO BRING:** Bible, writing material, name tag,

**COST:** \$60.00

**RETREAT CHAPLAIN:** Karen Pietsch

**GUEST SPEAKERS:** Our very own – Emma Graetz & Andy Traeger.

**Further enquiries** – please see Val Schild if you have a query.

Email: [vjschild@gmail.com](mailto:vjschild@gmail.com) or mobile: 0404 432 920.

You can pick up an enrolment form from the Link Noticeboard area and hand to me.

**I will be happy to send them away in a bulk posting.** The weekend concludes with a community lunch on Sunday after the 10.30am church service. It would be wonderful to see lots of St Marks ladies present, young or old to this special event, and you don't even have to travel far. Please note the date on your calendar or in your diary now to plan to attend.

**Pay by cash, cheque or card on the day.**



The Lord is my shepherd  
I shall not want  
He makes me lie down  
In green pastures  
He leads me  
Beside quiet waters

## St Marks Quiz Answers

- 1 In which year was the first service held in Mount Barker? 1957
2. Where was this service held? Mount Barker Institute
3. Where was the first church land purchased in Mount Barker? Albert Rd
4. Who originally owned the current site of the church? Mrs Stephenson
5. How much did the hall cost to build? \$11,000
6. What were used as the first toilets? Portable toilet from potato patch
7. When were plans drawn up for the Sunday school rooms? 1968
8. Who was the first member of St Marks to go to the seminary? Eric Liebelt
9. Who were the youth councillors in 1973? Mr & Mrs Harold Pelchen
10. When did Pastor Eckert arrive at St Marks? 1973

## LCA/NZ Simultaneous Art Exhibition 2023

Hosted by the Lutheran churches and schools of Adelaide Hills at  
St Marks Lutheran Church Hall

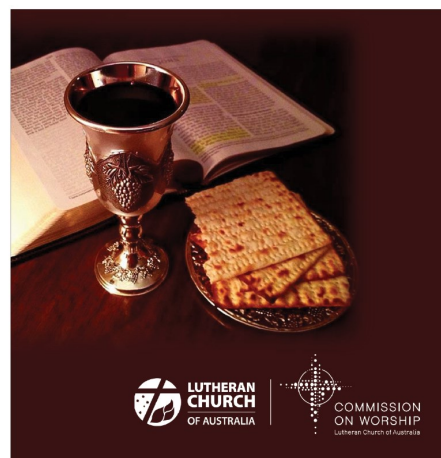
**24th to 27th August 2023**

Come and see a variety of St Mark's and other local artists' media  
and interpretation on the theme

**"Come to the Banquet"**

Opening times for the exhibition:

Thursday	2pm to 6pm (Students and families encouraged to attend)
Friday	10am to 3pm 6pm to 8pm Invite only event
Saturday	10am to 3pm
Sunday	Combined church service at 9.30am 11am to 3pm



Tea, coffee and nibbles will be  
available for you to enjoy  
while you view the works.

*Your support of this event will be appreciated*

Donations of cakes and biscuits are requested across the weekend. Speak to Jenny Curtis or Annette Cavies.

Profits from monetary donations will go towards Australian Lutheran World Service Famine appeals.

## Aging and other matters

1. When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.
2. To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it.
3. Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9:00 pm is the new midnight.
4. It's the start of a brand new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles.
5. The older I get, the earlier it gets late.
6. When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.
7. I remember being able to get up and not sounding like Rice Krispies!
8. I had my patience tested. I'm negative.
9. Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.
10. If you're sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"
11. When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "nothing," it does not mean I am free. It means I am doing nothing.
12. I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took me three days, but whatever.
13. I run like the winded.
14. I hate when a couple argues in public, and I missed the beginning and don't know whose side I'm on.
15. When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask, "Why, what did you hear?"
16. When you do squats, are your knees supposed to sound like a goat chewing on an aluminum can stuffed with celery?
17. I don't mean to interrupt people. I just randomly remember things and get really excited.
18. When I ask for directions, please don't use words like "east."
19. Don't bother walking a mile in my shoes. That would be boring. Spend 30 seconds in my head. That'll freak you right out.
20. Sometimes, someone unexpected comes into your life out of nowhere, makes your heart race, and changes you forever. We call those people cops.
21. My luck is like a bald guy who just won a comb.



**Theme: Storms of Life**

Three ladies from St Mark's attended (Jan Hodgson, Val Schild and Jenny Girdham). Worship times were led by Glenelg's Pastor Tim Ebbs, which were welcoming, inspiring and thought-provoking. We were then welcomed by the Glenelg's congregation chairperson Sharon, Pastor David Altus (who will be retiring) and Pastor Stephen Schultz. The Bible verse Pastor Ebbs chose was 2 Thess 3:3 – The Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you. We experience many storms in our lives – loss of a loved one, sickness, redundancy, attacks from the Devil, all the heartache we hear on the TV news. With the visual display of Jesus in the boat on the lake with his disciples, he rebuked the waves – He said Peace, be still. Jesus is the true God of the universe. The Lord was faithful to his disciples. He is with us through all the storms of our lives. Jesus beckons us to rest with Him. God will protect us from the fury of the storms. We are in the boat with Him. Trust Him.

Guest Speaker was John van Ruth, CEO of Lutheran Disability Services. (LDS has been running for over 30 years. There are 84 clients in over 25 houses). They do get some government funding. John gave an interesting testimony of his life, being originally born in Holland and one of eleven children. Though not a Lutheran, but Anglican, he is very passionate about his role and working with disability. LDS aims to give these lovely souls, a sense of empowerment and connection – they create great opportunities for them to serve others. John's message to us was "God loves the messiness of life". Encouraging us to practise expressing God's love and grace by getting messy!

LWA. Maureen Turner and Val Schild spoke on behalf of President Grace Kroehn. (Grace was absent as she was on her way to Geraldton for the WA Convention).

ALC. Pastoral Students Fund & the Adelaide Deaf Church need assistance & support, plus the NT camps. Treasurer's Report. Ruth Kaesler gave her final treasurers report, as she is retiring after serving 6 years. The new treasurer will be Faye Jenke. Ruth reported, that to date we have 1,030 paid members for 2023 (85 less members), last year 2022 there were 1,115 members.

Joan Schiller is retiring as Secretary after serving for many years. Joan will still serve as the 'Tidings' editor.

Lutheran care: - the Op shop is next to the Glenelg Church & was established 20 years ago .We had the opportunity to visit the Op shop during our 1½ hour lunch break.

Immanuel College Yr 9 band played after lunch and Devotion was led by Pastor Ebbs, continuing with the theme. Pastor Ebbs introduced us to two women from the Glenelg congregation who courageously both gave personal testimony of their lives: one dealing with sexual abuse as a child by a family member and later domestic violence during her marriage. They both showed extreme courage .

Lutheran Women Magazine report by Grace Bock. Reported cost of production has increased and they are finding it hard to break even and are losing money. The magazine is 50 years old!



## **LWSA convention Continued**

Flower arrangement  
for Convention

**Lutheran Media – Pastor Richard Fox and staff member Clare Allen spoke on this ministry which started in 1945. Messages of Hope website continues to help others. Much positive feedback is received from their listeners.**

**LCA International Mission – Erin Kerber spoke at length. Bishop Steven Lawrence – scholarship in Malaysia**

**Home of Praise, Thailand – young ones now stay in kindy until they go to school (was until 3 years old)**

**Women's Ministry training, PNG Home of Grace, Thailand  
Lutheran Study Centre, Indonesia**

**Nevin Nitschke is retiring (down to 2 staff).**

**LLL Speaker – Cyber security updates was highlighted for us all to be aware of.**

**ALWS Speaker – Julie Krause is in Ukraine – help and supporting the children, through ALWF with food hampers etc. Helping those fleeing to Poland, teaching language. Help in Turkiye and Syria, medical help, and shelter after disaster. Help in Sudan and Saudi. Prayers for peace and thanking us for support.**

**LWSA-NT Retreat – will be held at St Marks, Mount Barker on Sat 21<sup>st</sup> and Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Theme: 'Beside Still Waters'. Enrolment forms are now available. Mrs Karen Pietsch will be the Chaplain.**

**Pastor Stephen Schultz – reported on work in NT and mentioned Pastor Ben's installation. Hoping for an Assistant Bishop position for Central Australia by the end of the year. Looking at more bush camps for training pastors.**

**Installation of the new Committee for LWSA-NT 2023 24**

**President – Josie Hunt (2) 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Debbie Borgas (2)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Lynette Pech (0) Secretary – Chris Kuchel (0)**

**Assistant Secretary – Dagmar Preusker (0) Treasurer – Faye Jenke (0)**

**Extra members – Di Schlenk (2) Merrilyn Koch (0), Margaret Sallis (0)**

**Attendance numbers for Convention – 119 members + 14 visitors.**

**Offering – for the day was \$8,672 Next year's Convention – Glynde Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024.**

**It was a great day of fellowship with inspiring messages through worship times and the interesting speakers. Submitted & written by Jenny Girdham Typed by Vicki McNeil Edited by Val Schild**



## CHURCH REGISTER

### Baptisms:

Lucy Barnett-Pierce - 26.02.2023

Benjamin McIntyre - 12.03.2023

Ivy-Lyn Lovelady - 19.03.2023

Francesca Forbes - 7.05.2023

### The Matters Editorial team

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Proof-reader: Joy Christian

Photographer: Sharon Heyne

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### Commandments for seniors

Talk to yourself There are times you need expert advice.

In style means the clothes that still fit.

Your people skills are good. It your tolerance for idiots that needs work.

The biggest lie your can tell yourself. I won't write that down, I'll remember it.

Ontime is when you get there.

It would be good if we could put our self in the clothes dryer and come out wrinkle free and 5 sizes smaller.

**St Marks**†  
Lutheran Church  
SHARING THE LOVE OF JESUS

35 Hampden Rd Mt Barker

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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.



By Sienna Mibus 7yroid



Baptism Lucy Barnet-Pierce

Out & About At  
St Marks



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



Baptism Ivy-Lyn Loveday



Baptism Francesca Forbes

The Editor  
Thanks You!



Strike up the band.



Remember when??