

J U N E 2 0 1 9

# SAINTSalive

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIAN LUTHERAN COLLEGE

‘See, I am making all things new.’

REVELATIONS 21:5

ALC



# FLEXIBLE LEARNING *to meet your needs*



*Pastor James Winderlich*  
PRINCIPAL

*Our cover: The bible verse on the front cover is the text for ALC's 2019 annual appeal.  
Cover photo: iStock.com*

**SAINTS**alive  
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**A|L|C**

Australian Lutheran College  
is the provider of tertiary  
theological education for the  
Lutheran Church of Australia  
and is a college of the University  
of Divinity and a member  
college of the Australian Centre  
for Advanced Studies.



ALC is restructuring internally, reviewing and expanding its course offerings and modes of delivery, and adapting its teaching methods, as it continues to implement its Strategic Direction 2017–2022.

None of this would be possible without your support and partnership.

In order to meet the needs of our students and allow greater flexibility, we plan to expand our distributed learning model to cover all streams of learning offered by the college, including our pastoral program, so that we can partner with you in your local context. For more information, see the article by ALC Dean Dr Stephen Haar on page 5.

If you feel God calling you to be a pastor, but have disregarded the call because moving to Adelaide is not possible, ask us about study options from 2020. Contact us via email: [enquiries@alc.edu.au](mailto:enquiries@alc.edu.au).

As we strive to promote our Lutheran identity in our schools, ALC will launch a new graduate certificate designed to assist teachers and other school personnel to further their understanding of the Christian faith, including ways in which it underpins and drives Lutheran school practice. For more information, see the article on page 6 by Dr Merryn Ruwoldt.

We also plan to offer a revitalised online diploma from 2020 that caters for students seeking a discernment and discovery experience. Completion of this award will enable students to gain credit into another ALC award.

ALC's Strategic Direction is guided by the principle of 'learning for life'. In essence, this means that in the future, ALC will respond to the training needs of the church **sooner** (through internships/VET studies), **deeper** (through higher education studies and research) and for **longer** (through postgraduate studies, continuing education, and professional and vocational development offerings).

If you want to study for personal interest or professional development or wish to revisit a topic you've previously studied (eg a biblical language), ALC's audit options may interest you. Auditing a unit within ALC's higher education programs enables people of all ages to participate in a class or workshop without completing assignments or receiving any credit towards a qualification.

Visit our website to stay up-to-date with new developments and training opportunities, and get updates by subscribing to our monthly eNews via the LCA website at [www.lca.org.au/enews](http://www.lca.org.au/enews)

It's never too late to learn! Please consider how ALC might help you grow in your faith, or encourage others to study with ALC. There are many providers of theological education, but ALC is the only accredited provider of post-secondary and tertiary Lutheran education in Australia and New Zealand.

**Studying through ALC ensures that our Lutheran identity is not lost, but instead retained and promoted for future generations.**

# Our Community

You might be surprised to learn that ALC students are based around Australia and even overseas – in fact, most of our students are located off campus. More and more, students are demanding flexible study options and are making the most of being able to study from anywhere, at any time and at their own pace. On these pages, you can meet members of our ALC community who live and study outside of South Australia.



Carlin

People study with ALC for a range of reasons. For **Carlin Ruhle**, it was a curiosity about her faith and theology that led her to enrol in a Certificate IV in Christian Ministry and Theology.

'I grew up on the Sunshine Coast, attending both a Lutheran church and Lutheran school', she says. 'When I was 15, I had the opportunity to attend a Christian Life Week (CLW) camp, run by LYQ (Lutheran Youth of Queensland), and it really ignited my faith, inspiring me to more actively engage in my relationship with Christ.'

'My involvement with CLWs continued as a participant, leader, director and as a camp parent. I have now been married for 17 years to a man I met on that first CLW camp, and we have three wonderful children. We live on a cropping farm outside of Dalby, in Queensland.'

'I work as a teacher aide at a Catholic school, working with special-needs students. I am also involved with volunteer roles at my church, and am the organisational director of our family life!'

'I chose to study the Certificate IV in Christian Ministry and Theology through ALC because I wanted to know more about my faith and theology. I am gaining insights and knowledge that is giving me the skills to use in my life, to share God's love more effectively and grow closer in my own relationship with God.'

**Craig Schmidt** has been serving in education in Queensland for almost 30 years. With a background in mathematics, health and physical education, he served for 10 years in state education before transitioning into Christian education.

'I grew up in a Lutheran family which was a foundation family of Redeemer Lutheran College, Rochedale', he says. 'Lutheran schooling has had an enduring impact on my life and I joined Lutheran education seven years ago as an educator. I am now delighted to serve as principal of St Peters Lutheran College, Springfield.'

'Leadership in the disciplines of education, business and theology is critical. I love learning, so formal study in each of these areas has developed my capability. Studying with ALC has been essential to my explicit understanding of Lutheran theology and its application in education and life.'

'ALC contributes to my effective service not only as an educational leader but as a spiritual leader in and of my school community. It also helps me to ensure that the school I lead remains true to its mission and authentically Lutheran. I want our students to encounter the living God, to be given the gift of faith, grow in that faith, understand themselves, the world and their purpose in light of this faith, and embrace the fullness of life God has for them.'



Craig





**Augustin Muthusami** is proof that distance is no barrier to studying with ALC. He is an ordained pastor of the Lutheran Church in Malaysia – a seven-and-a-half hour flight away from ALC's North Adelaide campus – pursuing doctoral research studies through ALC.

'I have been a pastor for about 27 years now', he says. 'As I have served in the ministry, I have found that I have an affinity for teaching and that has become my passion. I have been training the lay in theology and preaching for many years, and since obtaining my Master of Theology, I have been teaching in the seminary. Currently, I am serving as communications officer for the Lutheran Church in Malaysia. I also head the Lay Education Ministry and am involved in many other things.'

'Studying for me is part-time – from whatever time I can find from my other duties! I have enjoyed learning how differently Lutheran identities are constructed in different parts of the world, and how so many factors, including culture and history, play a part.'

'It is my hope that I will be able to gain a more vibrant understanding on how my brothers and sisters in Malaysia can see themselves as being Lutheran and how this will affect our role and life in Malaysian society.'

**Akala Heinzl** is completing her final year of a Bachelor of Education (Foundation to Year 12) at La Trobe University in Bendigo, while also completing Lutheran Strand studies through ALC\*.

'Being Lutheran, I have always wanted to work in the Lutheran school system and share my faith with my students', she says. 'I also wanted to increase my knowledge of what it means to be Lutheran and gain a deeper understanding of my own beliefs.'

'I have really enjoyed my studies so far. ALC has been very accommodating with me undertaking these studies on top of my degree and has been very supportive. I attended a workshop in February 2017 at ALC, and really enjoyed the content and meeting the other people studying the same subjects as me, who have similar interests.'

'Ultimately, I hope that my studies will lead to employment in a Lutheran school.'

*\*ALC does not offer a full teacher-training program but works with universities around Australia to assist students to embed a Christian Studies teaching minor into their initial teacher qualification. Since Christian Studies is a compulsory subject for all students in Lutheran schools, the schools value graduates who arrive with a skill set in this area and an enhanced insight into the core nature of Lutheran schools.*



## GUEST FLAT ACCOMMODATION

**ALC has two flats available for short and long-term hire, situated on campus in Hamann Hall.**

**These flats are especially set up for guests, are well priced and are in high demand so ensure you book ahead.**





# Better prepared for ministry

BY Rev Dr Stephen Haar

The Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) has continued to change over the years since its formation in 1966. The number and mix of congregations – established, declining, renewing and emerging – is changing. The arrival of migrants and refugees from Asia, Africa and the Middle East has witnessed a change in membership profile and highlights special needs within culture and language groups.

These realities expose the inadequacy of ALC continuing to provide a 'one-size-fits-all' response to the education and training needs of pastors and other workers in a diverse church.

ALC is undergoing a period of transformation, taking the lead from its Strategic Direction and reorganising itself to better meet the learning and

vocational needs of the LCA. One aspect of this renewed identity and purpose, endorsed by the ALC Board, is the implementation of a distributed learning model **across all vocational programs and courses of study.**

Distributed learning is not online-only learning, nor is it distance education in new clothing. It is something different again. The model includes a mix of online learning, streaming, videoconferencing, face-to-face classroom time and experiential learning. Concurrent with their theological study, learners are engaged in a guided process of relational, reflective and contextual learning, including the use of mentors and supervisors.

Distributed learning envisions a college without

walls: locally based, nationally coordinated and globally connected. Students follow approved programs of study within a dynamic model of intersecting learning communities: congregation, college and context. In a limited sense, aspects of distributed learning have already been available to students at ALC, other than pastoral stream students, for some time.

**A distributed model for pastoral studies represents a significant change to current practice.**

ALC's distributed learning model aims to offer a rich, multi-dimensional learning experience that informs, shapes and better prepares people for ministry. This model represents a clear example of ALC responding to the challenge of providing theological education and training for a changing context.

Enrolment inquiries are welcome year-round.

*Dr Stephen Haar  
is ALC Dean.*

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## UNIVERSITY OF DIVINITY TOPS STUDENT EXPERIENCE SURVEY

The University of Divinity has been recognised for the second year in a row as the leading university in Australia for positive student experience, according to the 2018 Student Experience Survey results, from the Federal Government's Quality Indicator for Learning and Teaching program ([www.qilt.edu.au/about-this-site/student-experience](http://www.qilt.edu.au/about-this-site/student-experience)).

ALC has been a partner college of the University of Divinity – formerly Melbourne College of Divinity – since 2010. As a college of the university, ALC retains its theological, ecclesial, and financial independence as the tertiary institution of the Lutheran Church of Australia, while the university takes care of registration and accreditation issues for all higher education awards.





BY *Dr Merryn Ruwoldt*

In partnership with Lutheran Education Australia, ALC has developed a new graduate certificate designed to assist teachers and other school personnel to further their understanding of the Christian faith and ways in which it underpins Lutheran school practice.

The qualification is based on an action/reflection model of learning and utilises co-teaching teams – pairing academics with Lutheran education practitioners working in local, regional and online environments to ensure accessibility regardless of the remoteness of the school.

The aim is to better serve the needs of those relatively new to Lutheran education. Lutheran schools can be somewhat puzzling to new staff who haven't arrived via ALC or experienced other meaningful association with the Lutheran faith. Lutheran schools do

The aim is to better *serve* the needs of those relatively new to Lutheran *education*.

things in ways that work but can be difficult to get a handle on without the cultural context. Something called grace seems to be important, but what does it mean, what does it do and how does it impact on classroom practice? What do Lutherans actually believe? These kinds of observations and questions, along with many others about the content and purpose of teaching Christian Studies, are common.

This new certificate seeks to help staff in Lutheran schools reflect on the questions their Lutheran work context raises for them. ALC is delighted to be working alongside Lutheran Education Australia in developing and rolling out this new award.

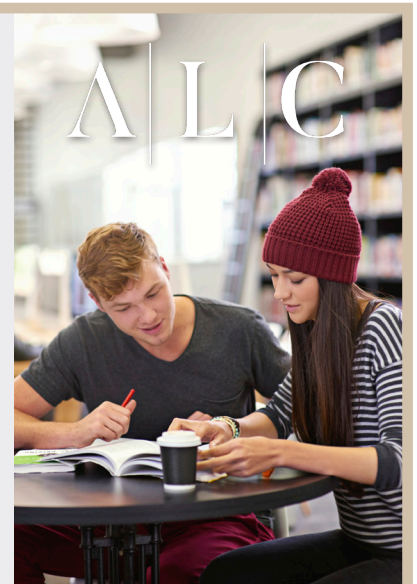
*Dr Merryn Ruwoldt is ALC's Associate Dean for Learning and Teaching.*

## Flexible ministry and theology study

ALC offers a Certificate IV as a one year full-time or two to three year part-time course for students who are looking to grow in their theological knowledge and gain practical and personal ministry skills. The subjects within this course are offered through a variety of study modes, and students can complete the course completely off-campus.

Enrolments are welcome year-round and benefits of the course include:

- Graduates with this qualification are ideally placed to find employment as lay workers, youth workers, chaplains or mission support personnel;
- Lay workers who achieve the Certificate IV are eligible for accreditation as a lay worker in the Lutheran Church of Australia; and
- Subjects are flexible and designed around your schedule and location, all around Australia.





Samuel Rentsch and Jeremy Smith visit Luhrs Cottage at Light Pass in South Australia's Barossa Valley, to learn more about where early Lutherans in Australia settled.



Joel Grieger examines the bells at St John's Lutheran Church, Tanunda, also in the Barossa Valley, where he and fellow pastoral ministry students looked into the worship life of some of Australia's first Lutherans.



Pastor Tom Pietsch, who is ALC Lecturer in Church History, inspects the bell at Immanuel Lutheran Church at Light Pass in South Australia.

First and second year ALC pastoral ministry students visit the Barossa Valley on a history excursion. From left to right, Samuel Rentsch, Tom Kitson, Jeremy Smith, Joel Grieger, Joel Savage, Eric Marshall, Luke Crouch, Ed Shoesmith and Jacob Fabich.



# Interacting with history

Hitting the road isn't always part of tertiary studies but that's just what ALC on-campus history students have been doing in recent weeks.

Not only have students read eyewitness accounts of the first Lutherans in Australia, they also have been walking in the same places our forebears trod.

Some of their experiences have included standing where the first Lutheran missionaries learnt then taught the Kaurna Aboriginal language on the banks of Adelaide's River Torrens 180 years ago, walking around the site of the first Lutheran settlement in Australia at Klemzig, now a suburb of Adelaide, and visiting churches and houses in South Australia's Barossa Valley where early Lutherans settled, worshipped, worked, debated, married and died.

'As we receive our own Lutheran story, it is a great experience for the students to get out of the classroom and interact with these historical sites', church history lecturer Pastor Tom Pietsch says. 'The world often passes

these places by, so it is important for us as Australian Lutherans to stop there a while, remember and thank God for our forebears.'

The history class also has been visited by guest speakers and has made a trip to Lutheran Archives.

'By digging down to the roots of Australian Lutheranism, students don't just engage with an interesting story but rather receive a part of their own story', Pastor Tom says.

'The way we Lutherans delight in the word of God today is unmistakably shaped by how God fed our Lutheran forebears', he adds.

'Looking at the past becomes a way of looking at the present and even looking at ourselves with greater clarity. "The word of the Lord endures forever", the Scriptures proclaim, but studying the tightrope on which the Holy Spirit has led the church in faithfulness to his word is often an exciting adventure!'





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## Where there's a will, THERE'S A WAY

At ALC we're humbled to learn that someone has remembered the college in their will.

Sometimes it's not unexpected, as the person who died had a long association with ALC. At other times, a bequest comes to us out of the blue, suggesting that ALC made an impact on someone's life that we never knew about.

In every case, we thank God for the blessing of the bequest and for the church member or friend who trusted us to apply their gift, with the greatest care, to the training of God's people for ministry.

Working with you, we hope that future generations will have the opportunity to receive an educational learning experience that is Lutheran in identity, confession and emphasis.

You can contribute to this vision by including ALC in your will. Your bequest or legacy to the college will help us to prepare students for ministry in the LCA as pastors, mission workers, teachers and leaders. It also allows you to make the kind of gift you might be unable to give during your lifetime.

You can support a specific project at ALC or dedicate your bequest for general purposes, which means we will direct it to the most crucial area of need. This flexible approach to giving is extremely useful as needs and priorities may change over time.

To find out more about including ALC in your will, contact Business Manager Barclay Watson on Freecall 1800 625 193, email [business@alc.edu.au](mailto:business@alc.edu.au) or write to Barclay at Australian Lutheran College, 104 Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide SA 5006.