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SAINTsalive

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIAN LUTHERAN COLLEGE

'How *beautiful*
are the feet of
those who bring
good news!'

ROMANS 10:15

Steps of faith

Best feet forward

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'

ROMANS 10:14,15 NRSV



Pastor James Windertich
PRINCIPAL

That's why St Paul asks his four questions which begin with:

How are they to call on one in whom they have not believed?

At Australian Lutheran College we are experiencing extremely difficult financial times. While our commitment to the care and formation of the beautifully 'footed' people you send to us is as strong as ever, we are struggling under the weight of many financial pressures. Our student numbers are not growing. In some cases they are even falling. The costs of providing accredited tertiary education continue to grow, while our income from various sources diminishes. We have cut our costs and now we appeal to you for help. We are doing all that we can to remain viable and serve the church that matters to all of us.

In May and June our 2016 appeal was launched. Appeal packages were sent to all congregations. If you have not received yours please contact us, or go to www.alc.edu.au and make your donation directly there.

How are they to proclaim [Jesus Christ] unless they are sent?

At Australian Lutheran College we receive God's beautifully 'footed' people who are sent by you. Following their time with us, you the church will once again send them, equipped and ready to serve. That matters. Please help us ensure the gospel continues to be carried by beautifully 'footed' people.

Our church, the Lutheran Church of Australia, matters.

Many reasons could be given to justify this statement. Some might focus on our cultural identity and heritage. Others might delve into spiritual and theological themes. In this edition of *Saints Alive* I want us to focus on our feet. Before you read on, quickly glance at your own feet. Irrespective of their condition or shape, all of our feet are made beautiful.

As we have each heard and continue to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ, and as that good news makes its home in our hearts, our feet are made beautiful as they carry that same good news into the lives of others.

At Australian Lutheran College we receive the beautifully 'footed' people whom you send us. We don't create them.

They are already made beautiful through the washing, proclaiming, hearing and feeding of the gospel. Our call is to prepare each of those beautifully 'footed' people for specific opportunities for service in the life of our church, together with our partner churches. It might be as school teachers, pastoral care workers, chaplains, parish workers, volunteers or pastors. It might be for specialist ministry areas, such as people who care for the young or the ageing.

At Australian Lutheran College we help people to prepare their beautifully transformed feet to bring God's gift of forgiveness, renewal and hope to people who ache for that same love. After all, that's what matters to God.

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Australian Lutheran College
is the training institution
of the Lutheran Church of
Australia and a college of
the University of Divinity.



The tertiary education provider of the LCA, ALC prepares people for specific opportunities to serve in the life of our church and our church schools, in a wide range of roles and specialist ministry areas.

ALC offers all of this through a variety of accredited and non-accredited learning opportunities.

You can study on campus if that suits you – and some courses require this – but the majority of ALC's students study externally, through workshops, 'intensives' and on-line learning.

Grassroots Training is also a ministry of ALC, which offers hands-on, practical training for everyday people of the LCA. Offerings include pre-packaged and custom-made

training opportunities for individuals, congregations, schools and ministry groups with workshops, seminars and training delivered throughout Australia and New Zealand.

At ALC we're passionate about lifelong learning. No matter what your educational level or life experience, or where you live, we're sure we can offer you something that will help you to grow in wisdom and in grace.

So take that first step today. Make the call or send us an email and join us in our LCA mission to be a church in which God's love comes to life. Contact the college or visit our website at www.alc.edu.au to find out more about the courses we provide.

Spring into evening classes – on campus or online

Each year Grassroots Training, together with ALC teaching staff, offers evening classes on a variety of topics.

To be run over four Tuesdays in September for 2016, evening classes are open to everyone. And this year one course will be able to be done online, as well as on campus at North Adelaide. The 2016 classes will be taught by the three Stephens at ALC – but you don't need to be a Stephen to attend.

- **Theology in the public square:** refugees, asylum seekers, and border control – Dr Stephen Haar: **Available online via webinar, as well as on campus.**
- **Living ... by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God:** living with a biblical worldview – Dr Stephen Hultgren
- **Luther then and now:** looking at a selection of 'gems' from Luther's writings and exploring their impact for today – Dr Stephen Pietsch

GRASSROOTS TRAINING EVENING CLASSES

When
7.00 pm–9.30 pm (ACST)
on 6, 13, 20 and 27 September 2016

Where
**Australian Lutheran College,
104 Jeffcott St, North Adelaide
(enter from 200 Ward St)**

Cost
\$50 (\$35 for concession card holders)

For on campus attendance and for webinar registration go to:
www.alc.edu.au/payments/grassrootstraining.html and select 'evening classes'
For more information: www.grassroots.edu.au/customised-training/evening-classes



OUR COMMUNITY

Our ALC community is rich, colourful and diverse. Here are just four of our stories.



Chris

When first year ALC student Chris Johnson speaks, it is obvious he's not an average Aussie – despite the fact he's from Walla Walla. That's because the Walla Walla Chris grew up in is on the other side of the world in Washington state, in the US.

So why is an American bloke studying the pastoral stream at ALC? Chris grew up attending a Presbyterian church. As a young adult he travelled widely in Asia and Australia. In 2005 he moved to Sydney, where he worked in a retail tea shop, and eventually began attending St Paul's congregation.

One Sunday, a visiting pastor at St Paul's challenged Chris to think about studying to become a pastor. The thought was cemented in Chris's mind after he moved to Melbourne. Chris visited St John's Southgate, where he picked up a copy of the congregation's constitution which mentioned the *Book of Concord*. The Lutheran confessions resonated with Chris and firmed up his decision to join the LCA. He received instruction and sought guidance from Pastor Ian Vainikka, who also confirmed him in 2013.

Intent on serving God, Chris (whose wife, Melissa Juergensen, is a Lutheran pastor's daughter from America) weighed up studying to be a pastor in Australia rather than returning to the US. After much discussion and prayer, he applied to study at ALC and moved with Melissa to Adelaide earlier in the year.

'Studying at ALC has been amazing – there is such a wealth of knowledge here', Chris says. 'The community aspect of the college is mind-blowing and the level of support and connection is great.'

Robyn

Perth may be a long way from Adelaide but, thanks to technology, WA-based Robyn Phillips is able to study a Diploma in Theology through ALC.

Robyn is employed by the Australian Institute of Family Counselling (AIFC) as its regional director for WA, and also serves as its Distance Education Program director, working with students from around Australia and overseas. AIFC delivers nationally accredited Christian counselling training and partners with churches to equip those in ministry.

She is the WA coordinator for Veta, a national organisation which offers discipleship training for young people, including Vetamorphus for Year 11 and 12 students. This training focuses on raising a generation of young leaders to reach beyond the potential they see in themselves to that which God has prepared for them.

Finding time to study, work and juggle family commitments can be a challenge for Robyn.

'On-line learning provides me with flexibility to study when I can find time, from the comfort of my home', Robyn says. 'Having grown up a Lutheran, it was important to me to learn foundational theology from a Lutheran perspective. The support given by the staff at ALC's Löhe Memorial Library has been exceptional and I always have access to the best resources. My studies at ALC have given me a firmer foundation in my own faith and enhanced my theological basis on which to develop curriculum in my various training roles.'

Robyn was also a participant in the LCA's Twenty20 Vision program in 2011, which aimed to prepare 20 people for leadership in the LCA for the year 2020 and beyond. She is a member of the Rockingham-Mandurah congregation, south of Perth.



Renee

Renee Simpfendorfer grew up in southern New South Wales, where she was a member at St Paul's Lutheran Church, Henty, and attended its primary school, before completing school at St Paul's College, Walla Walla. She then boarded at 'the Sem' while studying a Bachelor of Pharmacy in Adelaide.

After almost 10 years working as a pharmacist around Australia and the world, she re-trained as a teacher and found great joy in her new vocation. While on a break from full-time teaching, at home with two young children, Renee decided to embark on postgraduate study. She chose a Master of Education and Theology degree at Australian Lutheran College (ALC) because she wanted to do educational research in the field of her passion: Godly Play – a method of fostering the spiritual development of children. Renee felt she would be well-supported at ALC with experts in education and theology to guide her!

'So far, I have found my studies to be engaging, relevant, challenging and rewarding', Renee says. 'I have gained a greater understanding of the Bible and Lutheran theology and how this can influence education. While almost all of my study has been online, I have particularly enjoyed the subjects with a workshop component, enabling face-to-face collaboration with other students. By the end of my studies, I hope to have the knowledge and skills to apply theology to my teaching and learning, as I regularly reflect on my teaching practice; not just teaching Christian Studies or organising classroom devotions, but in everyday aspects of school life.'

JOIN US!

Come and join us on a transformative, enjoyable and empowering journey of discovery and growth.

We offer high-quality teaching that prepares people to be effective spiritual leaders, educators and workers, who bring life and renewal in the communities they serve. Every year ALC welcomes new students of all ages. Maybe you'll be one of them.

Samuel

Samuel Wang, a pastor of the Singapore Lutheran Church, is one of the overseas students who enriches ALC's community in Adelaide, thanks to scholarships provided by LCA International Mission.

Samuel was sent to ALC by his church for a month in 2011, during which he wrote a major paper to prepare for his ordination. In 2013, he returned to Adelaide for three years of doctoral studies, with the thesis topic of *A Lutheran Dogmatic Assessment of the Infant Communion Debate in the English Speaking World*, thanks to the support of an LCA International Mission scholarship.

Additional scholarship funds were made available through ALC's connection with the University of Divinity, enabling Samuel's wife and four daughters to join him in Australia – something Samuel is very grateful for, especially as funding is usually only available for the scholarship holder.

'Studying and living in Australia has really been a different kettle of fish to Singapore', Samuel says. 'Singapore is seven times smaller than the size of Kangaroo Island and, with a population greater than Sydney, 80 per cent of the population lives in high rise flats. At ALC, my family has been provided a three-bedroom townhouse. We really feel spoilt to have been given this experience. Studying at ALC has been a blessing. In particular, I have greatly appreciated being able to ask pointed Lutheran questions of the Lutheran theologians here on staff. My experience at ALC, together with my doctoral research, will enable me to contribute to future theological dialogue within the local and wider church in Singapore.'

Samuel is due to complete his doctoral studies later this year and will then return to Singapore to serve the church as a pastor, before taking up a part-time lecturing position at Trinity Theological College there in January 2017.



Tertiary Accommodation at ALC

In addition to educational programs, ALC provides excellent facilities which can accommodate up to 90 private residential students in their own rooms. All residential students must be full-time tertiary students, studying either on campus or at government universities, TAFE colleges or private educational institutions. To find out more about these facilities, phone the college on (08) 7120 8200 or email residential@alc.edu.au

Staff changes at ALC

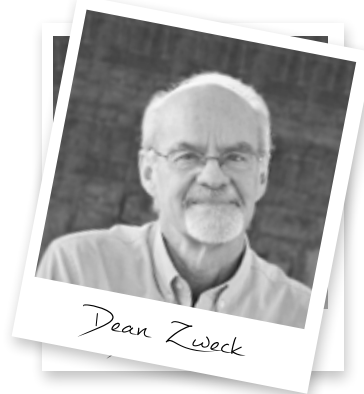
Four respected colleagues were farewelled by ALC staff last month. Ruth Zimmermann, Dean Zweck and Margaret Beare have retired, while Tania Nelson is taking up a new role at the LCA national office as the church's Executive Officer – Local Mission.



Ruth Zimmermann

From 2009 until her retirement in July, Ruth worked predominantly in ALC's School of Educational Theology, preparing teaching students theologically for work in Lutheran schools, as well as working with educators completing postgraduate studies. In addition to her teaching role at the college, Ruth also served as Associate Dean for Learning and Teaching and was a member of the college leadership team. Over the years, Ruth's passion for teaching in a Christian environment has inspired many teachers and future educators, as well as the staff at ALC. In addition to her love for teaching, Ruth's keen sense of humour, her thoughtfulness for others, and her persistent endeavours to improve communication around the college, will be remembered on campus.

After 15 years of lecturing in church history, world religions and apologetics at ALC, Dean retired last month. With a doctorate in New Testament studies, Dean also taught in the biblical studies department over the years. In addition to teaching, Dean welcomed many an international scholar in his role as Overseas Student Supervisor. From 2001 to 2011, he also served the college as Vice Principal. Despite having turned 70 earlier this year, Dean continually amazed colleagues with his unstoppable energy and his commitment to teaching – arriving at the college on his trusty bicycle day after day, until his very last day – rain, hail or shine. A man with a gentle manner and caring nature, Dean will be sorely missed by students and colleagues.



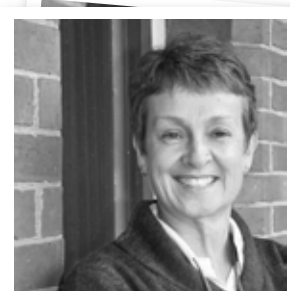
Dean Zweck



Margaret Beare

Margaret joined the ALC community as its Business Manager in 2009 and, over the years, has had the difficult task of managing the college's limited finances. During her time at ALC, she has been responsible for implementing a new accounting system, introducing cost-cutting measures and writing numerous policies and procedures, among many other things. Margaret has worked hard with the college budgets in order to make ALC's limited income stretch as far as possible. Her commitment will be remembered at ALC, as will her willingness to pitch in and lend a hand.

Tania served as the Head of the School of Theological Studies at ALC from 2012 until June this year. Tania achieved a great deal in her four-and-a-half years at the college. As well as supervising students within her school and filling the role of Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Tania oversaw the development of online training programs, including the LCA's Congregational Leadership Training. Although her new job with the LCA will only take her a short distance from ALC (meaning she will no doubt be seen around the campus in future), Tania will be remembered for her 'glass-half-full-to-overflowing' personality, her gift for finding a positive in every negative situation, her willingness to help out at a moment's notice, and her ability to look to and plan for the future.



Tania Nelson

The new Luther Seminary faculty for 1968: back: Dr P D Pahl (Historical Theology), Dr V C Pfitzner (New Testament Theology) and Dr J T E Renner (Old Testament Theology); front: Rev A J Lohe (Practical Theology), Dr H Sasse (Historical Theology), Dr S P Hebart (Principal and Systematic Theology), Dr H P Hamann (Vice-Principal/Dean of Students and New Testament and Practical Theology).



Fritzsche Oration

Friday 19 August at 7.30pm

AT AUSTRALIAN LUTHERAN COLLEGE

Professorial Personalities – Luther Seminary's Early Years *by Dr Vic Pfitzner*

A lecturer at the then Luther Seminary from 1968 to 2004 and Principal from 1989 to 1997, Dr Pfitzner will offer recollections on the personalities associated with the beginnings of the new seminary, which was formed from the union of the former Concordia and Immanuel seminaries, in the annual Fritzsche Oration.

Why was the opening of the new school and its first decade of operation marked by such optimism? How did two faculties weld into one? What compromises had to be made? Who was entrusted with preparing people for pastoral ministry in the new LCA? Brief sketches will bring to life the personalities and accomplishments of such Luther Seminary pioneers as reverend doctors Hebart, Hamann, Sasse, Pahl, Janetzki and Renner, and lecturers commonly known by students as 'Doc', 'Henry', 'Sass', 'Pahl', 'Jan', 'Jacky', 'AJ', 'Morrie', 'Prieb', 'JB' and – unimaginatively – 'Vic'.

The first members of the teaching staff established decades of tradition in theological education; they wrote industriously and established the *Lutheran Theological Journal*; they were at the heart of theological discussions and disputations in the new church; and some deserve to be remembered for their sheer humanity, as genuine larger-than-life 'characters'. While reintroducing these characters and recalling past achievements and mistakes, Dr Pfitzner believes it may be a chance to reflect on how wisdom gained from experience might suggest future paths for ALC. We who made mistakes in the past may be allowed the temerity to suggest how things might be done better today, he suggests.

This oration will be of interest to young and old, and all are welcome to attend.

The Fritzsche Oration commemorates Gotthard Fritzsche as the forerunner of Lutheran theological education in Australia, and highlights the contribution of theologians to the history of Australian Lutheranism. It is an annual event organised in partnership between Australian Lutheran College and the Committee of Lutheran Archives.

CHAIRS (WITH A DIFFERENCE) FOR SALE

The Kriewaldt Chair in Systematic Theology was recently launched at Australian Lutheran College (ALC).

This post is the result of a generous gift from the Kriewaldt family to annually fund a teaching position at ALC. The family has made the gift as a thank offering in recognition of the many blessings its members have received from God.

The family wants the gesture to be an encouragement to all of us. Lutheran faith and practice is important to the Kriewaldts, and the training and equipping of people to serve with those values is equally important.

By establishing this Chair, the Kriewaldt family wants to support and promote the unique and distinctive contributions made by Lutheran theology, not only to the lives of practising Lutherans, but also in the lives of people outside of the church.

Would you consider directly supporting a teaching position at ALC? Your contribution does not need to cover the full cost of that position and it can be made over a period of time. For more information or to discuss this opportunity further, please contact ALC Principal Pastor James Winderlich at:

104 Jeffcott Street
North Adelaide SA 5006
08 7120 8200
principal@alc.edu.au





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Australian Lutheran College

104 Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide SA 5006
Call 1800 625 193



Walk with us!

We hope you have enjoyed meeting some of our students in this issue. These people have stepped out in faith to follow God's call into ministry – as pastors, lay workers and teachers, or simply to be better equipped to carry God's love into their world, perhaps even into your world.

There's a face missing from this photo wall – and that space is reserved for you.

Your care, prayers and your financial support make it possible for ALC to train these people for ministry – which makes you part of our ALC community, too.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

