

March 2026

*“ We are called
to live in ways
that help others
connect
with Jesus ”*

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Be an everyday missionary - be ready with the Gospel

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.
1 Peter 3:15

One of the most significant bible verses for our response to God's grace is found in Matthew 28:16-20, where Jesus says **as you go about your life** make disciples of all nations. Many English translations simply say *Go and make disciples of all nations*, yet what Jesus actually says is as you go about your life make disciples of all nations. This has major consequences for us as Christians. It means every day, in every situation we face and every time we interact with people we are called to be living in ways that help others connect with Jesus and His church. In other words, **we are called to be everyday missionaries.**

So, what might being an everyday missionary look like?

The first thing to remember is we are called to share Jesus' Gospel, which is



From the Bishop
Richard Schwedes

what Jesus has done, is doing and will do for us. This is centred around Jesus' action on the cross and through the empty tomb for you, me, and everyone else.

Unfortunately, not everyone has this understanding of Christianity. Some recent research has revealed that a growing number in our society view Christianity as oppressive and legalistic, whilst others' experience of Christians is that they must get themselves right before God will love them. They do not seem to be aware of God's main message for us as revealed in John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Recently on a trip I encountered a gentleman who had said he was a flawed Christian. As the conversation went, he said he believed in God but was embarrassed by his sins of the past and some which he found difficult to deal with.

LCA NSW and ACT District is *Walking together* IN MISSION by:



- Supporting congregations and ministries in mission and ministry
- Supporting congregations in transition
- Developing and supporting alternative models for ministry
- Planting and renewing congregations
- Developing and supporting networking and connections
- Developing and supporting leadership – through the Bishop leading leadership teams

DISTRICT NEWS for your prayer and care

Call

- Pastor Sahat Simanullang, GKIA Indonesian Yagoona, has accepted a call to Jakarta Indonesia. Pr Sahat's final service will be on 26 April 2026

Approval as SMP Candidate

- Peter Reed has been approved as a Specific Ministry Pastor Candidate serving the Jindera Church Plant.

Appointment

- Stephen Fogerty has been appointed as LCA NSW and ACT District Administrator, beginning 2 March 2026

Farewell

- Russell Veerhuis has concluded his time in the role of LCA NSW and ACT District Administrator. Russell was formally farewelled by DCC when they met in March.

As a consequence, he had stopped associating with other Christians as they frequently reminded him of how flawed he was. Not only this, he was also now unsure whether God really loved him, or whether he would be welcomed into heaven.

As we talked I tried to constantly encourage him to focus on what Jesus does for us, that God's love for us is not dependent on how good or even faithful we are, and reminded him of the story of the prodigal son, where the father joyful welcomed his son back home (see Luke 15:11-32).

As we parted ways he thanked me for the conversation and said, "I am really encouraged because by focussing on Jesus I can see there is hope." And as I reflected on this conversation, I was reminded of how important it is to focus on Jesus and His actions as an everyday missionary. I encourage you to do the same, focus your discussion with people on the actions of Jesus.

Another important aspect in being an everyday missionary is to remember that **God's love is for all people, no exceptions!!!** This can be challenging because some people are really difficult, but remember God's love is even for them, just as Romans 5:8-9 reminds us, *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been*

“Focus your discussions with people on the actions of Jesus”

justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! Think about what this might mean when dealing with people who are different to us, difficult or even sinning from our perspective. What might it mean for you share the Gospel with them in mind?

Being an everyday missionary, someone who is focussed on the Gospel, means **we can always have hope, no matter how troubled the world or our life is at present.** At times I find myself in situations where people are engrossed with the negativeness of life or the evil of the world. And it is easy to be caught up in the negative talk and thinking, even to the point of demonising people.

However, my perspective and approach alter when I focus on the promises of God, including Jesus' words as found in John 16:33, *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

I begin to live with hope. My focus also changes from looking at how bad things are, to looking for the good God is doing amongst the mess or even in response to the mess, especially through His communities of faith – people like you and me.

Being an everyday missionary begins with staying close to Jesus—through prayer, worship, frequent bible engagement, and daily trust in His promises. As you walk with Him, you will naturally be ready to share the Gospel: what Jesus has done, what He is doing now, and what He will do. And as you go about your life, God will use you to bring hope, grace, and the love of Christ into the lives of others.

Bishop Richard Schwedes

Southern Riverina Gathering

On Sunday 1 March 130 people attended a combined worship service at St John's Lutheran School, Jindera. Attendees represented seven of the southern Riverina congregations. After enjoying fellowship over lunch, 70 people stayed for the workshop led by Bishop Richard Schwedes, exploring how congregations and ministries can work together better for the sake of the Gospel.



Attendees at the Riverina workshop

New NSW and ACT District Administrator



Stephen Fogerty

Stephen Fogerty has recently been appointed to the position of District Administrator for NSW and ACT, commencing on Monday 2 March 2026.

Stephen brings 30 years of experience in Funds Management and Corporate Finance holding senior positions in Global Institutions, Boutique and Family Offices. As a land economist, he has established and run listed and unlisted real estate enterprises in the Australasian, European and Asian markets. Throughout his career Stephen has undertaken the acquisition, development and management of major real estate projects, facilitating funding through the public and private markets as well as corporate IPO's.

Stephen did not grow up in the church yet always believed in God. As a teenager he believed in and confessed Jesus Christ as his Saviour, was baptised and started attending a local non-denominational church in the Hills district of northwest Sydney.

He has enjoyed an active role in various churches and ministries globally and undertaken mission trips to the Philippines as well as volunteering with an NGO in Israel. In 2025 Stephen started attending the monthly Men's Breakfast at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Narrabeena on Sydney's northern beaches. Soon after he started attending the Sunday service, prayer meetings and bible study. As someone who has been a member of various non-denominational and traditional churches globally, Stephen looks to find agreement on fundamental biblical core beliefs that unite followers of Christ as a body of believers.

Stephen feels most at home at the beach and enjoys riding roller coasters. He is an avid F1 fan who spent his 40th birthday driving F1 cars in the South of France.

Stephen is excited by the opportunity to serve the body of Christ and greater community through the Lutheran Church and is looking forward to the challenge.

Stephen Fogerty
stephen.fogerty@lca.org.au

A Final word from Russell Veerhuis

Dear NSW and ACT District,

When God called me into the role of District Administrator 13 years ago (from Warrambui), no one could have predicted the changes we would see in this time. Back then the District was struggling with Concord House tenancy issues. There was limited funding for ministry in the District, until God had his way.

The original vision for Concord House was that after 20 years it would fund ministry in the District. We assumed that would be because the loan had been paid off - little did we know it was because God would provide an opportunity to sell the property for much more than we'd ever imagine. Now, through God's provision, we are able to fund a range of ministries across the District. A lack of funds does not need to be an obstacle in spreading the Gospel.

The heart of the District Office team has always been to serve the congregations, schools and organisations of the District so they can do ministry well. It has been an honour to serve with the Office team. I have made many, many friends across the many congregations of our District, these will be friends for life.

Thank you for the blessing you have been to my family and me through these last 13 years serving in the District Office, and for the 4 years at Warrambui prior to that. Special thanks must go out to the TPM leadership over these years. What you have done for my kids and their faith development cannot be undervalued. We cherish it deeply, knowing that all our kids are active in ministry because of the role of TPM.

Finally, a special thank you to the District Office team, in particular the many bishops who have kept us in line and focused on Christ. A huge thanks to District Office front desk Kaye for all her help in organising many of the events and Synods across the District. These 13 years have been a pleasure to serve you all. Keep your eyes focused on Christ and all he has called you to. I have long since learnt that God specialises in spaces that seem impossible.



Every blessing,
Russell Veerhuis

**Jodi and Russell
Veerhuis**

District Prayer Gathering in your Region



This year we are trying something different for our District Prayer Gatherings.

In recent years we invited intercessors across our District to all meet in one location for a District Prayer Gathering. This was great, but meant lots of traveling. In September 2025 we commenced online District Prayer Meetings. These now continue each month and work well for those who are willing to give the technology a go. This year we combined the two approaches for a 'District Prayer Gathering in your Region'!

On Saturday 21st February, we asked the intercessors to gather in their regions. This reduced travel and required only one person in the group to use technology to link up with the other regions. At least 24 people participated in the day. People gathered at St Peter's, Port Macquarie; District Office, Bella Vista; Good Shepherd, Tuggeranong; and St Luke's Albury. Individuals also joined from various locations, including the Bishop joining in from New Zealand.

The morning started at 10am with morning tea in our regions, ranging from cookies to pavlova. Then Pastor Darren led us in a devotion, reminding us of the importance of praying for our congregations and the District. He also helped us reflect on John 11 where Jesus resurrects Lazarus. However, before there can be the miracle of resurrection, there needs to be a death. Perhaps a ministry or congregation might be changing or closing, but in Jesus, that is not the end! New congregations and ministries are also starting. Let's grieve the losses in healthy ways, but let's also look for the new life and hope God is bringing. What is God wanting us to let go of? What is he wanting us to retain? What is the new life he is bringing? Pastor Richard then updated us on various district matters that he saw as

important areas for prayer. He also gave opportunity for questions and clarification. This left us with 40 mins to pray

together in our regions into the matters mentioned by our Bishop. At midday, many people took up the option of sharing lunch together in their regions.

"We felt the presence of God and the prayers of intercessors around the whole state", Veronica reflected, "what a blessing - hope we make this a regular thing. What an amazing bunch of intercessors today."

Cheryl agreed, "We also felt a great spirit, particularly knowing we were connected around the district. We very much appreciated Richard's sharing and we uphold him in prayer."

"It was a very positive experience" said Kathy, "and would most definitely like to participate again."

Due to such great success with this simple approach, we plan to repeat this format later this year – so keep a lookout for updates. If a person or group (especially in the North West Region) is willing to provide a venue for people to gather in your region, we would love to hear from you (we could assist with technology as needed). Until then, if you want to receive updates via email and/or WhatsApp, please contact darren.kupke@lca.org.au or join us for our monthly Online District Prayer Meetings - 7pm on the first Tuesday of each month.

*Pastor Darren Kupke
for the NSW & ACT District Prayer Team*

Being clear about being Lutheran...

If someone was to ask you, what does it mean to be Lutheran, how would you respond? Would you focus on our European and German heritage? Would you focus on some of our traditional practices?

Whilst these are part of our story, the reality is there is something far more important and deeper to share, and that is **the focus on the Gospel**, what God has done, is doing, and will do for us. This is what birthed the Lutheran movement and therefore the church. Through the actions of Jesus' suffering, dying and then rising on Easter Sunday we are saved and made righteous. Everything else is influenced and revolves around this critical Gospel focus.

And this is still needed today both within the wider community and even in the church, as the view of many is that Christianity is mainly about rules and demands from God, not the promises and actions of God.

In response to this we need to ground ourselves in the Gospel and prepare ourselves to share the Gospel of Christianity with others. Some resources to help you grow deeper in your understanding of the Christian faith from a Lutheran perspective include:

Essential introductory and refresher resources

- What is a Lutheran? tract - <https://ltm.org.au/tract/view/70601-what-is-a-lutheran>
- Luther's Small Catechism - <https://www.shopacr.com.au/P022998/Luther%27s-Small-Catechism/pd.php>
- Presence video series - <https://www.lca.org.au/what-lutherans-believe-video-series/>

Resources that can help you go even deeper

- Luther's Large Catechism – <https://www.shopacr.com.au/P702151/Luther%27s-Large-Catechism/pd.php>
- Book of Concord – <https://www.shopacr.com.au/P701043/The-Book-of-Concord/pd.php>
- Doing theology - Lutheran theology by Steven Paulson - <https://www.amazon.com.au/Lutheran-Theology-Rev-d-Steven-Paulson/dp/0567550001>

And as you read and hear the bible, sermons, devotions and podcasts, keep asking what is God saying and doing?

Bishop Richard Schwedes

District Church Council News

Supporting Congregations and Ministries in Mission and Ministry:

St Paul's St Marys new chairs

The District Church Council received an application from St Marys congregation who are looking to change from pews to stackable chairs to help open up their meeting space for ministry opportunities such as playgroup and Bible studies. The DCC was very supportive and happy to share the cost of the chairs with the St Marys congregation.

Holy Cross Belconnen manse upgrade

The Belconnen congregation have been considering a long overdue upgrade of their manse. DCC were supportive of the need and approved an interest-only loan for 5 years to the value of \$70,000 to the Belconnen congregation from the Mission Development Fund. At the end of 5 years Belconnen intends to have the loan paid off.

St Paul's Sydney front of church renewal project

The St Paul's Sydney congregation have long been aware that as the central Sydney congregation they are often the first port of call for Lutherans visiting Australia. The front of the St Paul's church has been in need of a renewal, with the cross on the front only hanging on by rusty metal brackets. With St Paul's leadership needing to know they had the support of the District to further investigate the project, the DCC was able to provide in principle support for their Front of Church Renewal Project up to \$200,000 with the source of funds yet to be decided between loan and or grant.

Frontier School of Mission

The District Church Council heard from Frontier School of Mission on the Sacrament workshops. Feedback on the training was overwhelmingly positive. In 2026 the plan is to providing further training workshops, focusing on lay reading. Thank you to Port Macquarie congregation for releasing Mark Worthing to provide this training.

Constitutions

Constitutions of Good Shepherd Campbelltown, St Peter's Lavington and Zion Walla Walla were all approved by DCC.

The **LCA Safe Church Service Desk** is your primary point of contact for any questions about the Child Safety Standards, Safe Church training, background screening checks and day-to-day safety management.



Website: www.lca.org.au/service
Phone: 1800 418 588
Email: safechurch@lca.org.au

Planting and Renewing Congregations:

Molonglo Valley Gospel Community

Jacob Traeger reported on the continuing development of the Molonglo Valley Gospel Community as supported by the Immanuel Woden congregation. DCC were excited to hear Molonglo taking the next steps in their development as a church plant. They now meet regularly in the Molonglo community.

The DCC was therefore excited to support the continuation of this plant with \$153,000 being granted over 3 years to support this growing ministry.

District Leadership through the Bishop leading teams:

2026 District Budget

The DCC received and adopted the 2026 District Budget. The budget maintained the same level of contribution from congregations whilst investing almost \$600,000 in mission and ministry in the District, all while maintaining our current investment mix.

Governance of Specific Ministries:

Lutheran Aged Care Albury

The District Church Council heard from Wendy Rocks Managing Director, and David Schulz the Board Chair of Lutheran Aged Care Albury, about the many challenges they have ahead. The Dellacourt extensions are now complete with the official opening on 4 February. The new Aged Care Act came into effect from Nov 1, 2025 and will provide increasing challenges with governance in aged care.

Warrambui Retreat and Conference Centre

Board chair of Warrambui, Neal Mason shared with DCC that whilst Warrambui had an increase in bookings in 2025, the cost of living had affected group sizes so that the net effect was the same. Warrambui are continuing to work on increasing bookings with their marketing plan in 2026. Changes in catering management have seen improvements and good responses from customers. DCC have been working with Warrambui to finalise an MOU between the two entities. Warrambui has also been looking at how to rejuvenate the camping ministry and DCC approved a grant for \$11,000 to support Warrambui running Easter camp.

Leigh Caldwell, on behalf of District Church Council





WARRAMBUI NEWS

March 2026

Prayer Points

- Upcoming Camps in March, To be blessed and enriched.
- For growth in bookings and blessing of our marketing activities
- For the formation of new partnerships with Christian schools, Churches and community Groups to foster spiritual growth in young people.

Praise Points

- For a strong team that builds community through love
- For the regular rain to bring life and fill up our water tanks.
- For increased booking and exposure in April-May.

Centre Director's Update

Building on Our Values – A Season of Growth and God's Goodness

Dear friends in Christ,
 As we journey together into 2026, we are reminded once again of the strength of doing all things *in the light*, of valuing each individual God places in our path, of *growing together* as a community, of living with *servant-hearted* humility, and of approaching each challenge with a *solutions-focused* mindset shaped by faith. These five values anchor us as we continue to build on the strong foundations God has laid at Warrambui.



Growth, Strategy & Fresh Beginnings

This season has offered us both new opportunities and renewed vision. We are embracing a blend of fresh strategies and the rebirth of trusted

ones—always guided by the belief that when we honour God, He leads us forward.

Our **2026 marketing strategy** is now underway, positioning us with clarity and purpose for the year ahead. A **full rebranding** of our website, brochures, communications, and advertising materials is currently in development so we may present who we are—authentically and excellently—to the wider community.

On **21 February**, we held an exciting photoshoot day to refresh our images and showcase Warrambui as a destination of choice for ministry, retreats, and Christian community. Through these initiatives, we seek not simply to promote a place, but to shine the light of Christ through everything we do—from our words to our welcome.

Encouraging Signs of Growth

Although bookings at this time of year are traditionally slower, we are grateful to God for clear signs of momentum and increase.

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” — Ephesians 2:10

- **66 bookings** have already been confirmed for the year—**75% of last year's final numbers**.
- Enquiries continue to come in, and we remain on track for **at least 10% growth** over last year's totals. With the new marketing strategy in place, we anticipate a **further 10% increase**, strengthening our capacity to serve more groups and extend Christian hospitality to the wider community. We trust that as we continue walking faithfully, God will multiply the work of our hands.

Camps & Ministry Updates

Due to unforeseen circumstances, this year's **Easter Camp (April 2–5)** has unfortunately been postponed. While this was a difficult decision, we move forward with hope and solutions-focused planning. Our attention now shifts to preparing a new **Confirmation Camp** scheduled for the July school holidays. More details and booking information will be available soon—please stay tuned.

Our 2026 Interns – Hearts for Jesus, Ready to Serve

We are blessed and excited to welcome our **2026**



Warrambui Interns, who have now completed their induction training and were installed for mission service at Holy Cross Lutheran Church a few weeks ago. Over the past three weeks, they have already contributed significantly through ministry to several camp groups.

This year, we have five remarkable young women—all

university graduates with a deep love for Jesus and a passion for mission:

- **Sarah Yowe & Alice Mesa**
- **Jonika Gesa & Jacklyn Manda**
- **Lina Kitamon**

They will spend the coming months growing in catering, hospitality, leadership, and cleaning, while also deepening their spiritual and theological formation. We value them deeply—not only for their service but for who they are as daughters of God.

Finally Home – A Personal Thank You

Some of you may recall the long transition we navigated last year, with many trips back and forth to Brisbane as we sought to settle both family life and ministry life. Over Christmas, I returned home to begin packing and preparing our Brisbane house for rental.

On January 4th, we finally made the full move to Warrambui, and a week later our belongings arrived. Praise God—we are now settled, unpacked, and fully planted in the community God has called us **to**. This new season allows us to engage deeply with all that Warrambui is and with the churches and communities around us. We look forward to fostering relationships that bring growth, connection, and lasting spiritual impact.

Thank you, dear friends, for every prayer, every word of encouragement, and every expression of care throughout this journey. We trust that as we faithfully serve, God will continue to open doors, strengthen relationships, and lead us into the opportunities He has prepared.

Together in his service.

Bernd Hahnert
Centre Director

Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding.
Seek His will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.
- Proverbs 3: 5-6



FRESH START | Our College community gathered at Zion Lutheran Church to mark the beginning of a new school year with a Dedication Service and the Installation of our new teaching staff. It was a wonderful opportunity to give thanks, reflect, and set our intentions for the year ahead. We warmly welcome Mr Richard Leahy, our new *Director of Teaching and Learning*, and are truly excited to have all our new staff members join us. We look forward to the knowledge, passion, and inspiration they will bring to our students and to our wider community. Their gifts and experience will be a blessing to the College as we continue to learn and grow together. A special welcome also to our Year 7 students and their families, who are beginning their journey with us here at St Paul's. We pray that the years ahead will be filled with encouragement, growth, and memorable moments.



FAITH & MINISTRY | Our College values strong community partnerships and creating an environment where every young person can flourish through Christian values. We are grateful for the annual visit from Gideons International and thank Geoff and Robyn Severin, along with Tim and Bek Lubke, for joining our Chapel service. Through their distribution of bibles and faithful sharing of God's word, they continue to encourage and inspire our students. Their ministry reflects our core values—Integrity, Compassion, Courage, Service and Creativity—and we appreciate their partnership in nurturing faith and character within our community. Our staff and students gathered on Ash Wednesday with Pastor John Borchert, marking the start of Lent. The ashes remind us of our humanity, our need for grace, and the hope we have in Christ. After the joy of Shrove Tuesday pancakes, we now enter a season of reflection, prayer, and renewal. Happy Easter to all.





**ST PAUL'S
COLLEGE**
WALLA WALLA, NSW

FACILITY UPGRADES | Last year, the College acquired five demountable classrooms with new disability access ramps added. These spaces will support enrolment growth in 2026. They have already provided us with HSC exam rooms onsite, and are now being used as classrooms. Flexi Classrooms 1 and 2 were upgraded with a sliding glass door and new furniture to enhance flexible learning, while Visual Arts facilities were improved with a new printing press and modern furnishings. As the College expands, new staff and student toilets and additional access ramps have been added and water tanks were relocated to open up the central quad. Major canteen upgrades — including sheltered areas and new refrigerated food displays. A new Year 12 room with a kitchenette and lounge has been created beside the canteen, and ongoing boarding upgrades continue to improve senior spaces, bedroom furniture, and air conditioning.



LEARNING - CSIRO GENERATION STEM SHOWCASE | Late last year, 26 enthusiastic Year 9 students designed and showcased innovative solutions addressing local challenges, including waste management and the protection of endangered species. Working collaboratively across science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), students demonstrated exceptional creativity, dedication and problem solving skills. Their final prototypes were presented in Albury to representatives from CSIRO, Albury City Council and members of the local community, including our College Chair, Mr Anthony Schulz. Each project reflected an impressive depth of research and effort, and we are incredibly proud of what these students achieved.



2025 ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE | We are delighted to recognise our 2025 award recipients. Thomas Hamson was named College Dux, with Isabel Mannes awarded Proxime Accessit to the Dux. Archie Frohling received the Lutheran Church of Australia NSW and ACT District Senior Principal's Award with the Junior recipient, Riley Kohlhagen. These awards acknowledged their character and contribution to our school community. Congratulations to all four students on their special awards, along with all our award recipients right across the year levels.



**ST PAUL'S
COLLEGE**
WALLA WALLA, NSW

**EXPLORE AND SEE
THE DIFFERENCE**

at our Meet n' Greet Open Morning
Friday, 6th March

Tour our learning facilities, boarding,
agriculture and equine at 9am - 10:30am



**2027, Year 7
enrolments
and scholarship
opportunities
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Offering day & weekly boarding

Appearances *do* matter

Not long ago, someone new to one of our Lutheran congregations was asked, "What brought you here?" Their answer was simple but revealing: "I drove past a number of times, I checked you out on your web page and Facebook, and when I came here you were very welcoming."

That short interaction confirms what some recent studies have been sharing: long before a person walks through the doors of a congregation, they've often already spent time observing us from a distance. They've looked at our building, our signage, our online presence, and—consciously or not—formed an impression. By the time they arrive, they already have a sense of who we are, and will also be seeking to see if they are welcomed or not.

In other words, our appearances matter.

Below are some helpful areas to review regularly regarding the appearances in your congregation:

Your Premises

- Are your premises neat, tidy, and inviting to those in your local community?
- Do they unintentionally act as a maze or create barriers that make it harder for someone to engage with your congregation?

Signage

- Is it tidy, clear, visible, and up to date?

Online Presence

- Are your website and Facebook pages current? Or are your most recent entries a week old?
- Is the Google listing for your congregation accurate?
- Can people easily find worship times, locations, key activities, and who to contact?

First Impressions in Worship

- When someone attends for the first (or second) time, do they feel welcomed?
- Can they follow and engage with the worship service without feeling lost or out of place?

Regularly reviewing our physical spaces, our digital presence, and the way we welcome newcomers is not about image for its own sake. It's about removing obstacles so people can more easily encounter Jesus through your community. Regularly attending to our appearance can have a significant impact on helping people connect with us and Jesus.

Bishop Richard Schwedes

Frontier Workshops

Lay Reading Workshops

For those who are Licensed for Word and for lay readers, these workshops will assist you in developing, preparing and presenting sermons in engaging and relevant ways for your local context. Workshop dates:

14 March 2026, Albury

9 May 2026, Woden

13 June 2026, Epping

12 Sept 2026, Forbes

frontier.lca.org.au

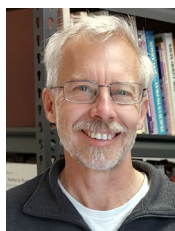


FRONTIER
SCHOOL OF MISSION

All people Licensed for Word are required to undertake this workshop, led by Pr Mark Worthing.

For further details, and to register go to frontier.lca.org.au

All enquiries
frontier@lca.org.au
02 8660 1200



Pr Mark Worthing

Online Faith resources

Some online resources to help you in your relationship with God and with others

Lectio 365

<https://lectio365.com/>

Lectio365 is a free daily devotional that invites you to pause in the presence of God and create space to pray morning, noon and night. You can download it as an app on your phone. A number of members around NSWACT and NZ Districts have commented that Lectio365 is helping them engage with God daily.

YouVersion Bible App

<https://www.youversion.com/>

YouVersion bible app can be used on your phone or computer for free. It gives you access to over 3500 different bible translations in over 2300 different languages. They also offer daily bible reading plans and children's resources.

Bible Project

<https://bibleproject.com/>

The Bible Project offers free online interactive videos that help you understand the books and themes of the bible. They are ideal for bible studies or personal studies.

The Song Writer Initiative

<https://lutheranmission.blogspot.com/2026/02/songwriter-initiative.html>

The Song Writer initiative offers contemporary songs for worship and personal devotion influenced by Lutheran theology.

LCA Congregational Life Hub

<https://www.lca.org.au/clh/>

The LCA Congregational Life Hub is the place to go if you are seeking resources to help your congregation. It offers resources for Worship & Faith, Mission, Ministry, Pastoral Care, Governance & Administration, Vacant Congregations, Safe Church, Church Workers and Training.

Asante 'Thank you' events with ALWS

Asante means thank you in Swahili, and Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS) wants to say ASANTE to you!

Throughout March, we're joined by Mary Obara, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Program Manager for your ALWS work in Kenya and Somalia.

We have a range of special upcoming events where Mary will be sharing.

Mary will take you into the heart of your work in the toughest places in the world, and you'll hear first-hand of the everyday challenges and joys.

You'll see exactly why your kindness is so precious.

You'll get to hear from special guest, Mary Obara, you'll also enjoy songs from Dorothy and Robin Mann/Apostle 13, hear stories from ALWS staff, friendly fellowship and delicious refreshments.

For more than two decades, Mary has dedicated her life to serving people affected by crisis.

Today, she leads the LWF team you support through ALWS, bringing hope and practical care to those most in need in Somalia,

and the refugee camps of Kenya at Kakuma and Dadaab.

Mary's work has reached communities facing conflict, displacement, and poverty — from South Sudan and Somalia to Kenya. She has worked with refugees,

women recovering from gender-based violence, children at risk, and families striving to rebuild their livelihoods.

Mary's hands-on program work includes education, water and sanitation, and household economies. What drives Mary to work in such challenging areas?

Mary says it's her deep desire to "make it count" — to ensure every action helps restore dignity and hope. Her strong faith keeps her grounded and compassionate, even in the most difficult contexts. "I find great joy working with faith-based humanitarian organisations that stay true to their calling. It's a privilege to serve where love and action come together."



Mary Obara

Meet Mary Obara at the ALWS Asante event at Albury Lutheran Church Sunday 22 March 3.30pm

District Prayer Calendar

	Parishes/ Congregations	Pastors and Church Workers (and family)	Location
March	1 Bass Hill Finnish	Pr Remo Ronkainen (<i>Susanna, Vivian, Daniel</i>) awaiting visa	Sydney Finnish
	8 Campbelltown	<i>vacant</i>	Good Shepherd Campbelltown
	15 Central Coast	<i>vacant</i>	St Matthew's Woy Woy
	22 Estonian	Pr Allan Taruste (<i>Tina, Matthew, Scarlet</i>)	St John's Estonian, Sydney
	29 German	Pr Christian Hohl (<i>Ute</i>)	Martin Luther Sydney
April	5 Indonesian	Pr Sahat Simanullang (<i>Nuritalia, Paskalis, Givendiau</i>)	Indonesian Yagoona
	12 Latvian	Pr Colvin MacPherson (<i>Linda</i>)	Sydney Latvian
	19 LifeWay	Pr Nich Kitchen (<i>Julie, Samuel</i>) Pr Francis Leung (<i>Peggy</i>)	LifeWay Epping LifeWay Chinese
	26 LifeWay	Pr Mathew von Stanke (<i>Elise, Lily, Aaron, Noah</i>)	LifeWay Newcastle
May	3 LifeWay	Michael Dobie Community Connector (<i>Karen</i>)	LifeWay Nowra LifeWay Oak Flats LifeWay Wollongong
	10 LifeWay	Danny Brock , Church planter (<i>Michelle, Dylan, Cody</i>)	LifeWay Westside
	17 Liverpool	Pr Bruce Flanagan (<i>Cuc, Elijah, Benny</i>)	Living Waters Liverpool
	24 Narraweena	Pr Munye Mtata (<i>Gladys-Linda, Kilmora, Samara</i>) awaiting visa	Redeemer Narraweena
	31 Port Macquarie	Pr Mark Worthing (<i>Kathy</i>)	St Peters Port Macquarie
June	7 Springwood	Pr Mark Simpfordorfer (<i>Kaye</i>)	Our Saviour Springwood
	14 St Marys	Pr Mark Simpfordorfer (<i>Kaye</i>)	St Paul's St Marys
	21 Sutherland	Pr Bruce Flanagan (<i>Cuc, Elijah, Benny</i>) Pr Munye Mtata (<i>Gladys-Linda, Kilmora, Samara</i>) awaiting visa	Good Shepherd Sutherland
	28 Sydney	Bridgitte Willshire Ministry and Mission Facilitator (<i>Paul</i>)	St Paul's Sydney



LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF AUSTRALIA

NSW and ACT DISTRICT

LCA NSW and ACT District Mission and Ministry Conference

5-7 August 2026 ~ Warrambui



LCA NSW and ACT District Convention of Synod

7-9 August 2026

Warrambui Retreat and Conference Centre,
Murrumbateman

Online registration for pastors, delegates
and visitors will be available May 2026.
Reports, Proposals, and Nominations due to
office.nsw@lca.org.au by end of June.
Enquiries to District Office phone 02 8660 1200
email admin.nsw@lca.org.au

Upcoming Events

- Feb 21 **Regional/District Prayer Gathering**
Jointly in person and online
- March 1 **Southern Riverina Worship and Workshop**
Jindera Lutheran School
- March 13 - 15 **LW NSW & ACT Retreat**
For women of all ages, Warrambui
- April 5 **Easter**
- May 11 - 13 **Mission and Ministry Conference**
District pastors and lay workers, Warrambui
- May 23 **LW NSW & ACT Convention**
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Wagga Wagga
- June 5 - 8 **Better Blokes**
for men of all ages, Warrambui
- Aug 5 - 7 **Mission and Ministry Conference**
District pastors and lay workers, Warrambui
- Aug 7 - 9 **LCA NSW and ACT District Synod**
Warrambui

Contact Newsletter

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Sign up to the new **District eNews** sent to your
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Like and Follow the District **Facebook Page** to keep
up to date with news and events. Search Facebook for **LCANSWACT**,
or go to www.facebook.com/LCANSWACT



If you have an event you would like advertised online
through the District channels please contact our
Communications Officer Nikki Spaans, email
nikki.spaans@lca.org.au

KEY NOTE
SPEAKERS
ELECTIVES
SHED

BETTER BLOKES 2026

5-8 June

Warrambui, Murrumbateman NSW

getting real with God, others and yourself

GOOD FOOD
FELLOWSHIP
WORSHIP
PRAYER



Tim Stringer
ALC Principal, Pastor,
Auto-Electrician,
Ice Hockey Player

**BOOKINGS OPEN
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Passionate Leader

A ministry of the Lutheran Church of Australia - NSW and ACT District
(02) 8660 1200

FOR COMPLAINTS & TO REPORT ABUSE IN LCA

If you have experienced abuse or have
witnessed poor behaviour from someone
working for, or connected with, the Lutheran
Church in Australia or New Zealand, or if you
believe that someone else in the church is at
risk, it is important that you let us know.

Phone 1800 644 628 (Australia)
0800 356 887 (New Zealand)

Email complaints@lca.org.au

Post PO Box 519, Marden SA
5070 Australia

Mobile phone text message
+61 (0) 438 320 218

