

LUTHERAN

WOMEN *of* QUEENSLAND

CONVENTION NEWSLETTER

No 182 AUGUST 2020



SATURDAY 10th OCTOBER 2020

***REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH,
PATRICK STREET, LAIDLEY***

From your President – Convention 2020 Newsletter.

Dear Sisters in Christ,

The year 2020 will live on in our minds. This is the year when we learnt how to do things differently and to stay at home. It is my hope that by the time you receive this Newsletter you are starting to enjoy fellowship with your church family even if somewhat restricted. How great it is to belong to a group of women who share a love of Jesus and can meet together to praise His Name.

Sadly Inari was unable to continue as **editor of our Newsletter** and the November and March issues haven't been printed. This was beyond everyone's control. This lack of news makes us appreciate the importance of the work that is done by the editor of the Newsletter and I thank Inari for 7 years of service to LWQ. We welcome Pam Flessner who now fills this duty for us. Pam's bio will appear in a forthcoming Newsletter. This position was not easy to fill and she will look for your support to bring a meaningful Newsletter to you. The November issue will be looking for some news from you as there will be no end of year functions to be reported. Please send in your activities that could be of interest to your sisters.

Your executive held our scheduled meeting on 11th March. This was just one week prior to the COVID lockdown. We made the painful decision to cancel the combined retreat/convention which promised to be a special time for all in attendance. West Moreton Zone and Brisbane North Sunshine Coast Zone were jointly arranging this weekend. We also set up a Plan B which we have now put in place to hold a less intense convention and pray that all in attendance will celebrate all that is Lutheran Women and return to their church communities to put Lutheran Women back on the Road to Recovery. The Agenda for this is included in this Newsletter. You will note it is a shortened programme which will enable us to spend some time in fellowship as well as praise.

There is no formal evening programme. If you should find yourself still in the Laidley neighbourhood for Saturday night there will be an informal gathering and names will be taken lunch time on Saturday. We thank the women of West Moreton Zone for the planning of this event.

One of the amazing developments from the original planning of the Retreat/Convention was the Bible Studies written by the BNSC Zone members. Their Women of Courage studies have been emailed to all on my mail list. If you have not received these and would like to receive them please contact me by email: htonkar@gmail.com or phone 0407629100.

Thank you Brisbane North and Sunshine Coast Zone for the work you put in preparing the combined Retreat Convention now cancelled.

The Women of Courage Bible Study Writers who we thank are:-

Esther – Norm Auricht	Mary – Pastor Maurice Richter	Hannah – Judith Smyth
Eve – Marilyn Jonas	Deborah – Eunice Wallis	Ruth – Dorothy Heller.

Onwards and Upwards. Retreat 13/14/15 March 2021 at James Byrne Centre planning is underway and all the details for this will appear in the November newsletter.

At the convention a new LWQ President and extra member will be elected. Our nominations committee have found nominees for these positions. It is time for me to say goodbye and thank each and every member of LWQ for their love and support. It is so precious and I trust that the same support will pass on to your new President.

Karen Bryce, President LWQ

REGISTRATION FORM FOR LWQ CONVENTION – Saturday 10th October 2020**THEME: “COURAGE TO TELL OUR STORY: 1 Corinthians 16:13****VENUE: REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH, PATRICK ST., LAIDLEY.**

Surname			
Given Name			
Address			
Phone	E mail		
Fellowship	Zone		
Indiv. Member	Visitor /	/ Guest Speaker/	/Other/

	Cost	Total
Saturday registration & catering for attendees. (Includes lunch, morning and afternoon tea)	\$50.00	
Gentleman's Bus Tour – leaves Church at 9.30 am and returns approx. 2.45pm. Name..... lunch at own cost (Morning & afternoon tea incl.)	\$10.00	
If you are staying over, the Saturday evening meal will be at your own expense. No evening program – Just casual time together. Numbers taken at lunchtime.		
TOTAL COST		

SPECIAL DIETARY MEAL REQUIREMENTS (MUST BE ADVISED WHEN BOOKING).

.....

BOOKINGS must be received with payment **BY 19th Sept. 2020. No late bookings**

CANCELLATIONS: N/B a non-refundable fee of \$20.00 will be charged.**DIRECT DEBIT:** Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000 A/C No. 158 725 200

Ref: Surname & Initial

CHEQUE/MONEY ORDER payable to LWQ West Moreton Zone.**Post** form and payment details to: Jan Fischer, 30 Jonquil Circuit,
Flinders View QLD 4305**Scan and email** to jan.fischer13@hotmail.com Enquiries: Ph. 0487 365 153

Signature.....Date

ACCOMMODATION SUGGESTIONS: NO BILLETS PROVIDED

Room Motels Gatton 5462 1111 Hatton Vale Motel 5465 6611

Gatton Motel 5462 1333 Plainland Porters Hotel Motel 5465 6547

RV Parking: Lake Dyer Caravan and Camping Ground 5465 3698

Laidley Showgrounds, just up from the church, end of Mac Greggor St.,

Laidley ph 5465 1284

Lutheran Women of Queensland 27th Biennial Convention
Saturday 10th October 2020, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Laidley

“Courage to tell our Story” 1 Corinthians 16:13

Programme & Convention Agenda

8.30 – 10am Morning Tea and Registration

10.00am OPENING WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Liturgist: Pastor Peter Geyer

Offering: during post address song

WELCOME:

West Moreton Zone President: Shirley Klinge

'Redeemer' Laidley Congregation Chairperson:

LWQ President: Karen Bryce & declare open

APPOINTMENTS:

Minute Secretaries: (2) Morning Afternoon

Reporter for LWA Magazine and LWQ Newsletter:

Time Keeper:

Nominations Committee: Lyn Klinge, Lois Schultz, Jill Schefe

GREETINGS: (Written only accepted)

APOLOGIES: (Written only accepted)

INTRODUCTION OF EXECUTIVE AND LWQ ZONE PRESIDENTS:

ATTENDANCE: Taken from Registrations

EXPLANATION OF BANNER AND FLOWERS:

MINUTES OF 26th BIENNIAL CONVENTION: 21st July, 2018 at St James Lutheran Church, Hervey Bay

CORRESPONDENCE:

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTIONS: Nominations Committee

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS:

PRESIDENT LWQ: Karen Bryce

TREASURER: Leanne Warbrooke

LWA PRESIDENT: Wendy Habel

LWQ NEWSLETTER: Pam Flessner

PROPOSAL 1:

That the Offering for the day be ½ to Mary & Martha's and ½ to Hospital Chaplaincy.

Speaker to Proposal: Leanne Warbrooke

TABLE GRACE:

12.30-1.30pm: LUNCH

RETURN THANKS:**PRAISE SESSION:****AFTERNOON DEVOTION:**

GUEST SPEAKER: LCA Mission International

SPOT SPEAKER: Tom Neumeier, LLL Tract Mission

PROPOSAL 2:

That the LWQ Project for the next 2 years be LYQ Ministry. Options to be Kids Camp or CLW. Speaker to proposal: LYQ representative

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

PRESIDENT:

1st VICE PRESIDENT:

2nd VICE PRESIDENT:

SECRETARY:

TREASURER:

APPOINTED BY LWQ Executive

Nominations Committee: Lyn Klinge, Lois Schultz, Jill Schefe

Newsletter Editor: Pam Flesser

Counsellors: Pastor Ray Morris

VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING LWQ Executive: Shirley Horrigan

(Pastor Matthew Schultz, Karen Bryce, Felicity Bradford and Inari Thiel)

GENERAL VOTE OF THANKS:**INSTALLATION OF OFFICE BEARERS:****CLOSING DEVOTION/SONG:****FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

3.00pm FINISH

TREASURER'S REPORT
LUTHERAN WOMEN OF QUEENSLAND
Annual Financial statements | 2 years ended 31st December 2019

	2018	2019
Income	\$	\$
Donations (per attached Schedule)	27,334.45	37,151.00
LWA Membership	3,850.00	3,670.00
LWQ Membership	4,068.00	2,889.00
Newsletter	2,354.50	2,163.00
Bursary Fund	3,696.00	4,592.00
PNG Birthing Kits	100.00	
LWA Convention Donations	340.00	
Payment from Kumbia	50.00	
Lutheran Women Subscription		12.00
Interest LLL accounts	<u>1,206.00</u>	<u>1,133.72</u>
Total	42,998.95	51,611.22
 Expenses		
Donations (per attached Schedule)	27,094.45	37,481.00
LWA Membership	3,855.00	3,670.00
Newsletter	2,699.50	819.28
Travel Expenses	488.00	450.00
Hire of Halls and Catering	366.26	389.04
Badges	25.80	
Bursaries	2,800.00	3,100.00
PNG Birthing Kits	100.00	
LWQ Donation - LWA Convention	1,000.00	
LWQ Donation – other Donations	340.00	
LWQ Donation – Lutherans for Life	1,000.00	
LWQ Donation – LYQ - Kid's Camps	2,000.00	1,500.00
LWQ Donation – Mary & Martha's		1,500.00
LWQ Donation – Hospital Chaplaincy		1,500.00
LWQ Donation – LCAQD Disaster Fund (Townsville floods)		1,500.00
Repayment to Kumbia	50.00	
Gifts for LWQ Convention	153.78	
Reimbursement to BS&GC – Retreat Fees		200.00
Payment to BN&SC		2.00
Lutheran Women Subscription		<u>12.00</u>
Total	41,972.79	52,123.32
 Net surplus / (deficit)	 1,026.16	 (-512.10)

LUTHERAN WOMEN OF QUEENSLAND
Donation Schedule | 2 years ended 31st December 2019


	2018		2019	
	\$		\$	
	Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses
LWA Projects				
<i>Aboriginal Missions –</i>				
Far North Queensland	2,257.05	2,257.05	2,508.00	2,508.00
Finke River	410.00	450.00	1,475.00	1,475.00
Australian Lutheran World Service	3,941.00	3,941.00	4,570.00	4,570.00
ALC Pastoral Ministry Students				
Assistance Fund	2,356.00	2,356.00	4,037.00	4,037.00
ALC Women's Auxiliary	1,005.00	1,055.00	1,671.00	1,671.00
LCA Mission International				
Bethany Home – Malaysia	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,567.00	2,567.00
Deborah Orphanage – Indonesia	2,015.00	2,015.00	2,534.00	2,534.00
Home of Praise-Thailand	2,011.00	2,011.00	2,660.00	2,660.00
Lutheran Church in Cambodia	1,983.00	1,983.00	1,875.00	1,875.00
PNG Solar Panels	1,835.00	1,835.00	4,130.00	4,130.00
PNG Women's Training – Meri Wok	2,080.00	2,080.00	3,104.00	3,104.00
Overseas students study through ALC	1,405.00	1,405.00	1,870.00	1,870.00
LWQ Projects				
LYQ - Luminate Course	3,171.40	2,841.00	495.00	825.00
LYQ – Kid's Camps	<u>865.00</u>	<u>865.00</u>	<u>3,655.00</u>	<u>3,655.00</u>
Total	27,334.45	27,094.45	37,151.00	37,481.00

Assets	@ 31st Dec 2018	@ 31st Dec 2019
Cash at Bank – CBA	3,433.78	
Cash at Bank – LLL General	42,878.11	50,256.25
Cash at Bank – LLL Mission	4,456.46	
Deposit (To be reimbursed)	<u>1,752.00</u>	<u>1,752.00</u>
Total	52,520.35	52,008.25

To the users of this Statement

Lutheran Women of Queensland are responsible for the preparation of the financial statement.

I have checked the accuracy of the financial statement to supporting documentation and enquiry with those charged with Governance of Lutheran Women of Queensland. I believe that the financial statement provides a true and fair position of Lutheran Women of Queensland for the two years ended 31 December 2019.



Cameron Jagers (Auditor)

Leanne Warbrooke (LWQ Treasurer)

LWA President's Report

Ephesians 4:2 "With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love"

Greetings to all in the name of our Lord and Saviour,

Our executive has had 3 meetings at Ballarat. Planning for the 2021 LWA convention is progressing and at the midterm council meeting, when representatives from each state will attend, details of theme and final confirmation of venue will be revealed. All information regarding the 2021 Convention will be available in later edition of Lutheran Women and on the LCA General Convention of Synod site with a link to LW registration page. Mark the date in your calendar 23rd September to 26th September, 2021.

Membership numbers for LWA 2019 stood at 3083. This year's numbers won't be evident until all states have forwarded their member donations to the LWA treasurer.

CONVENTIONS

In April the 52nd NSW convention was held in Henty, with the theme "The Light Keepers" Matthew 5:16. It was a privilege to attend this and meet a number of your ladies.

In early May I attended the Western Australian 50th Convention, with the theme "Women in Faith", Ephesians 3:20-21, where a number of South Australians joined in a wonderful celebration.

Upholding our sisters in Christ in this way is where love comes to life.

Later in May I also attended SA/NT, 53rd Convention at Para Vista with the theme "Radiant with Hope", Romans 15:13.

Irma Dymke and Irene Geer deputised for me at the 53rd Victorian Convention, which was held on the same day as the WA convention. The VIC theme was "Walking in Wisdom", Proverbs 2:6a and they also reported on a wonderful gathering, hearing about the projects they support and with encouraging and challenging Bible studies and devotions throughout the day. The Queensland convention/ retreat which are held every two years, I shall be attending this year, travel permitting.

LWA Magazine is a wonderful subscription showcasing projects supported by Lutheran women. I hope that you have enjoyed the contributors of personal stories, as this year we have been following through a theme "In everything give thanks". Our Bible studies have been challenging and the monthly devotions wonderful. We love to hear your stories of your guilds/fellowships, so please keep sharing these; they are an encouragement to all. Thank you to your immediate past President Roslyn Zadow for her lovely devotions through 2019.

Thank you to Grace Bock, editor and Maureen Turner, collator/proof reader and to Felicity Evans of Creative Minds in producing a first class magazine. This year has seen the introduction of a digital edition of the Lutheran Women's magazine. I encourage you to share this information in your congregations, with the young and the older. You may like to give a subscription to a granddaughter or younger friend, sharing what you most value about your faith and the how the projects you support change lives.

We continue to support the ALC Pastoral Students. Monies donated are held in a separate account of Lutheran Women. On behalf of LWA Executive Joan Zilm is the co-ordinator to the students and meets with the students and their wives to let them know of the support from Lutheran Women with our prayers and also financial help should any emergency arise. They receive a copy of the Lutheran Women's magazine and a gift of \$200. This is to help with incidentals at the beginning of their studies.

All LWA Projects have been well supported and a total of \$73,661.05 has been distributed were allocated. This is '**mind blowing**' and on behalf of all the agencies, a sincere thanks to all LWA members and friends for your generosity. We give thanks to God for the support you give through your State guilds/ fellowships donating not only to the 11 LWA projects but also to your individual state projects.

1 Peter 4:10 "as each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

Peace and grace be with you all

Wendy Habel, PRESIDENT LWA.

Lutherans For Life Report

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; but I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10.

We live in a society which is contradictory in its claims. Our Queensland Premier says every life is important, when talking about the COVID 19 pandemic but she has boasted about bringing in new abortion laws which are some of the world's most liberal, where the unborn can be sacrificed right up until birth, even though babies can live from 24 weeks gestation with the help of current technology.

GOOD NEWS: If LNP comes to government in Queensland's next election they have committed to revising the abortion laws. They have voted at their convention this year that babies born alive during failed abortion, which are older than 20 weeks gestation, must be given medical care, whether the care is palliative, comfort care, or life sustaining care. This is a movement in the right direction, as presently these beautiful little babies are left to die, with no care. Our current State Government is focused on bringing in laws to facilitate Voluntary Assisted Suicide. They have stated they will not bring it in until after the election, but that statement could change to an earlier time.

VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING (VAD) is actually voluntary assisted suicide, where the doctor facilitates a patient in taking their own life.

EUTHANASIA / ASSISTED SUICIDE / VAD

WHAT IT IS: A deliberate action by a doctor with the intention of taking a human being's life at the request of the person. A deliberate action by a doctor, in facilitating and enabling someone to take their own life, at their request. A doctor deliberately hastening the death of someone (e.g. administering a level of pain relief intended to end life at their request).

WHAT IT IS NOT: Refusing or discontinuation of medical treatment, which is burdensome or is futile. Ceasing or non-commencement of extraordinary measures of a life-sustaining nature e.g. life support machines. Administering strong pain relief to a terminally ill or critically injured person, with an unintended consequence being the death of that person.

EUTHANASIA, THEN ASSISTED SUICIDE AND VAD ALWAYS HAVE THE INTENT TO TAKE A HUMAN LIFE.

THEY ARE ALL FORMS OF KILLING

No matter how many laws are put in place to protect the vulnerable, these laws can be ignored or changed as we have seen in the case of abortion law, over the years. Please **PRAY about this bill, write to, or visit your local member**, with requests for more available palliative care, rather than VAD. This is an urgent matter.

NOTE: Queensland should have the equivalent of two Palliative Care Specialists per 100,000 population. But we have the equivalent of ONLY 0.7 per 100,000 . (not 70% per 100,000 as has been reported) Ultimately, the intention of palliative care is to maintain the comfort and dignity of the individual. The intention of VAD/ euthanasia is to end life (to kill).

To see Lutherans For Life web page etc. www.lutheransforlife.lca.org.au or

facebook / lutheransfor lifeaustralia.

More information on proposed Qld. law on VAD see facebook /cherishlife

Submitted by Joy Wurst.

Australian Lutheran World Service: Report for Convention 2020

Your heart for making a difference:
You haven't met Ajok Kuir Atem.

And you probably won't – she lives in the remote community of Panyagor in South Sudan. Yet, through ALWS, you have helped change her life – as just one of hundreds the Lutheran Women of Queensland who helped with donations totalling \$8,281.60 since 1 January 2019.

Hear what you have done for Ajok by training her in catering:

"It is hard as a woman in life because we have many jobs to do each day. Coming to the course I still had to try and fit in all my usual cycle of activities. It took a lot of time and effort to come, but it was worth it. I enjoyed learning new skills, my cooking has improved, and it will empower us as women. I thank God for the courage of those like you who give money to help us here in South Sudan. We are in poverty, but you are empowering us to do something for ourselves. I pray to God you can continue so that you can help more women."

From Brassall to Wondai, 25 separate Queensland Guilds brought love to life in places like Ajok's village through ALWS partner LWF (Lutheran World Federation).

Reverend Daniel Deng, Bishop of the Episcopalian Church in Duk County – who lived in Toowoomba for 14 years! – asked ALWS to tell you:

"I would like to pass on our great appreciation for LWF in this County. We appreciate the heart of LWF to respond even in times of insecurity and hardships. It is clear you have a heart for people. You share God's love. Here in South Sudan we still love God. People here are praising God regardless of the challenges. We have suffered much, but we are still praising God. We thank the Australians that you have a heart for making a difference. Keep it up Australia!"

Jonathan Krause Community Action Manager ALWS

LCA International Mission

Like most years, 2020 began with great promise and full diaries for the staff of LCA International Mission. Pastors had flights booked to teach in Malaysia during the early months of the year, a women's conference was scheduled in Myanmar, scholarship holders were eagerly anticipating time at Australian Lutheran College, and plans were afoot to provide intensive training for the emerging leader in Biblical Reconciliation in Indonesia. And then came COVID-19. And with that, many of our well laid plans had to be rethought overnight. The joyful reality is that although we have not been able to be present with our overseas partners as planned, the ministry of gospel has continued, and in some cases, exploded during this time of lockdown and hardship.

In all of this we give thanks to God for the faithfulness of Lutheran Women around Australia who remain our biggest supporters as we partner with churches in Papua New Guinea and South East Asia to proclaim the love and mercy of God in the crucified and risen Lord Jesus. Your ongoing support, even during the strictest times of lockdown in this country, has ensured our partner churches have not felt abandoned. In fact your continuing support of the projects LWA committed to for this synodical term has been a great blessing to churches trying to hold on to some aspect of normality.

Many stories can be told of the joy Papua New Guinean mothers express when they are given the birthing kits you put together. Although some places like Bethany Home (Malaysia) and Home of Praise (Thailand) had to be temporarily closed, the staff continued to support mums and newborns with love and care at Home of Grace (Thailand) thanks to the support of Lutheran Women. Wok Meri training continued in Papua New Guinea, as did the installation of solar panels providing critical electricity to Lutheran Health Centres, not to mention Hanna Schulz's uninterrupted work translating the Scriptures and Mick Hauser's teaching at Martin Luther Seminary. And thanks be to God, we've even been able to help scholarship holders stay up to date with their studies thanks to the gift of technology and the commitment of staff at Australian Lutheran College. Of course, there are also challenges which have come about because of the restrictions. Most of our partner churches serve in communities where everyone lives hand to mouth and so economic shut downs have caused a great deal of hardship and in some places, threatened famine. On YOUR behalf, LCA International Mission have been able to access reserve funds to provide essential food and sanitation items to help people through this trying time. Assistance has been provided in Myanmar, Burundi, Indonesia, Cambodia and the Philippines, with our other international partners working with us to ensure other churches have not gone without.

While this kind of Christian aid is not our 'regular business' at LCA International Mission, we could hardly turn a blind eye to the plight of our dear brothers and sisters who are suffering in ways we can only imagine. Inspired by St Paul's words in Galatians 6:9-10, we have responded on your behalf that the people we serve may know the love of God in both word and deed. When asked whether a congregation in Cambodia thought food or classrooms were the priority at this stage, the pastor replied, "There's not much point having classrooms if all the children die from starvation." We want to thank you, the Lutheran Women of Queensland and all members of the LCA for enabling us to undertake this holy work on your behalf.

We don't know what the rest of 2020 will look like. What we do know is that the Lord is still busy and active, growing his church as our brothers and sisters in Christ bear witness to the hope they have in the midst of the uncertainties of life. A hope that is even more relevant at a time of hardship and despair. As we have been forced to stop and reassess the work we do on YOUR behalf, what has struck us is the remarkable thread of God's grace that winds its way through the story of Australian overseas mission which traces its history all the way back to 1886. A story that has been made possible by the faithfulness and generosity of people like the Lutheran Women of Queensland and your passion for the mission of the church.

On behalf of LCA International Mission and all our partners – thank you! Thank you for partnering with us so that many more may experience the joy of being part of that story that has its beginning and end in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor Matt Anker.. Assistant to the Bishop – LCA International Mission

World Day of Prayer Queensland Committee Report

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical organisation which brings Christians in many countries together on the first Friday of March in each year to observe a day of prayer and to participate in a Worship Service. Each year the Service is prepared by Christian women from a different country. The 2020 Service was from Zimbabwe, with the theme "Rise! Take your mat and walk!"

The 2021 Service has been prepared by Christian Women from Vanuatu on the theme "Build on a Strong Foundation".

Through participation in the Worship Services those attending gain some understanding of the cultures, concerns and needs of the country and become aware of the unity in Christ being shared as well as the diversity of needs. The motto of World Day of Prayer is "Informed prayer Prayerful action" and this is affirmed through the prayers and actions undertaken through the Services and in many other different ways.

As this has been a difficult year, especially with the COVID 19 restrictions, this has impacted on the ability of some communities to hold a service. Services in Queensland were held in over 150 locations with attendance of approximately 5,000 people.

Current Representatives are Patricia (Tricia) Keddle from Taringa who has been on the Committee since February 2018, Esther Jones (Everton Hills) officially representing LWQ since 2009 but who has been attending Meetings since 2004. The Committee meets on the first Monday in February, May, July and August. The AGM is also held at the August Meeting. The last Monday in October each year is Packing Day held in the Baptist City Tabernacle Hall, Wickham Terrace, Brisbane when over 200 packages with service orders, discs (music and host country information) and other relevant information are collated for posting. Some of the packages are taken by representatives from different areas who are helping with the collation of the parcels. This is an extremely busy morning and extra helpers are always very welcome. The funds received from the services are distributed to various mission organisations including the Bible Society which receives the largest amount.

It is a privilege and joy to represent LWQ and to be part of the Queensland Committee with members of other denominations and organisations. Attendance at Meetings averages 12 ladies.

May the Lord continue to bless and encourage all those in LWQ Fellowships/Guilds, Churches and Schools who host, or participate in the World Day of Prayer Services, and pray for, and support the needs of others.

Esther Jones (11 July 2020)

Thank you!

Dear Lutheran Women of Queensland,

As key ministry partners we are grateful for the opportunity to give you an update of our ministry and the highlights from the last 12 months.

Unfortunately our last 12 months have really been defined by COVID-19 and its devastating impact on our ministry. As a ministry that is built around the gathering of young people for camps and training we felt the impacts of COVID-19 early. The pandemic has forced us to cancel:

- 6 holiday camps
- 15 training workshops in schools
- 50 camps at our campsites (thankfully 25 have rebooked for later this year)
- Our gap year ministry
- Our annual Brisbane Appeal Dinner

Thankfully this month we've been able to re-open our campsites, re-commence our In-school ministry and our holiday camp team are planning for September. Our prayer is that Queensland can avoid a second wave of infection so our ministry can operate with confidence again.

In contrast to the current challenges, our year started very positively with the opening of our new Ocean Outlook venue and associated dining room at Luther Heights Youth Camp – the first new accommodation building in over 40 years! It was a joy to celebrate the opening of these new buildings with many people in the middle of January this year. In time, these new buildings will allow us to influence 6,000 more people for the Gospel every year, which is an incredible opportunity for our church.

Through the highs and the lows we remain grateful for God's provision and guidance. We feel incredibly blessed to serve in His ministry and we're very grateful for the support of amazing ministry partners like Lutheran Women of Queensland who journey with us.

We will be praying for your convention on Saturday 10 October and hope that it is a day of encouragement and blessing to all involved!

Much love, The LYQ Team

A REQUEST FROM THE LWA EXECUTIVE

Most of the projects that we as Lutheran Women of Australia support, rely on the funds passed on to them from your generous donations. As we all know that through this Covid pandemic we have not had the income to our individual Guilds/Fellowships, through fundraisers or just offering donations at meetings. We ask that if any Guilds/Fellowships/Zones have any funds to spare, or maybe ask individuals to help out with extra donations, it would be most graciously accepted.

So that we can continue to support our LWA PROJECTS into the future.

Alternatively you can donate through the LWQ Website via the donation facility on lwq.org.au

TODAY'S FORECAST:

God reigns and the Son shines. "God fills my life with good things." Psalm103:5a (TLB)

Far North Queensland Report

Our Objective: *'To help people in the north come to know Jesus'*

When opportunity knocks take it with both hands. No one living today will ever forget 2020 for a whole range of reasons.

In the far north of our state the Covid19 way of life has left us thanking God for His protection with not one case being reported in any of our communities. For some there was fear, others went bush, others decided the beach was best and some just kept living their lives with very little impact. Therefore isolation has had lots of benefits. The main issue has been the restricted movement, but then many said it was only a return to the 70's and earlier and this they have enjoyed. Many have noticed the closing of our place of worship, even those who are not regular church attenders. The realization that this was 'true' had many asking over and over again "when can we come back". As in other places we soon found that livestreaming on facebook worked!

Our 'attendance' grew by 400%, we reached far and wide. So much so that when we return to the 'new normal' this will continue. Covid19 has provided us with an opportunity to try new approaches, learn different hymns and learn about the technology that allows all of this to happen. Whichever way we look at this year we can see God's hand leading and protecting our whole church, no human being could have brought the whole world to its knees in a way like this, it's been the great equalizer.

In Hope Vale the church 'Op Shop' under the guidance of Pam Spanagel has operated very successfully. This has provided a service to the community and a financial stream for our congregation and because of the range of items we stock, there's something for everyone. However we should not forget what a benefit this has provided in terms of 'retail therapy' during our lockdown period. In turn retail therapy is helping to provide for the mental health of so many. We have had Karla and Suzanne, our own family members working feverishly in Cairns to source goods for us and having them delivered to transport companies who have given us a very generous freight deal to get the goods here. Just so many ways through which God has blessed us abundantly. In the face of all these events Pam and I have delayed our planned retirement until the end of 2020 and pray that God will provide another 'shepherd' for His people here because as we say here 'All Lives Matter'. This may be my last report to LWQ, and we leave with the summary statement for our lives; 'God has saved the best 'till last' as we have enjoyed every step of the journey.

The support we have received from LWQ in prayers, physical and financial throughout another year has been sincerely appreciated as we consolidate our future knowing God has a plan. We leave it in His hands. We always pray that God continues to bless the work of our Lutheran Women, without your support for our work things may well be very different. Please also feel very welcome to visit us, even in retirement we can assure you of a memorable visit to the north.

In the Precious Name of Jesus,

Pam and David Spanagel (Rev.) 18th July 2020



PROFILE: NEWSLETTER EDITOR

PAM FLESSER.

First of all I will introduce myself. Some of you will know me from serving in various roles on the executive of LWA, Zone, and at present, President of Immanuel Buderim. I pray for the support and understanding of you all, as Lutheran Women of Qld. Most of all understanding that this is a new role for me and with everyone's help along the way we can achieve the continuation of this publication which binds us together as sisters working together for Christ and His mission.

It is very early days for me as Newsletter editor and I guess COVID-19 has been a little on my side with our Fellowships not being able to hold rallies, Fellowship Days or even just our usual meetings so there has been little to report. Add to that, Retreat/Convention which was to be a milestone, combining the two in one year, had to be cancelled. We pray now that the Convention in October will be well supported, bringing us back to nearly normal.

So as Fellowships get back on track, please don't forget to send in your news of how you met the challenge of not being able to fellowship together in person. It could be as little as telling everyone how you survived the lock down – holding meetings or just Bible Studies or meetings via Zoom. Maybe just catching up on some down time etc. I am sure we would all love to read about your stories and of course photos. Where to send is below.

Thank you in anticipation of my role of being your Newsletter Editor.

I will put my "Trust in the Lord with all my heart and lean not on my own understanding" Prov.3: 5

Pam Flessler

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Editor: Pam Flessler, 26/23 Blackwood St., Maroochydore 4558
pnpfless@bigpond.net.au Ph. 0416 203 433

Format for material MS-WORD docs and high resolution photos, please
Deadline for December issue 13th November, 2020

