



MESSAGE from LWQ President Val Kath

Greetings Ladies of LWQ: “Jesus is the Reason for the Season” a popular saying and decoration around Christmas. It fits just as well for the Easter Season: without Christmas there would be no Easter, without Christmas there would be no Christ: without Christ and His death and resurrection: there would be no Salvation, Grace and Mercy for us: Thank You Lord: Hallelujah!

I pray that your Lenten reflections and Easter celebrations was a time to count your blessings and renew and strengthen your faith.

LWQ Council met at Buderim prior to Retreat. We were thrilled to welcome Pastor Jordan Bennett our new LWQ Councillor. Pr Jordan comes from Orana Rest Home, Kingaroy. We look forward to working with him in our roles as part of the wider church, and to have him attend Retreat was a blessing to all.

Retreat: we enjoyed a weekend of Fellowship, Friendship, Fun and food. What a treat – no

food prep – no dishes. A BIG Thank you to the Ladies of our Host Zone BN&GC. Their hard work gave us a wonderful weekend. Sunday’s Communion Service was a walk through Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday. The dramatic readings/explanation along with the visual aids on each table made it a very moving service.

April was a very busy month with Zones holding Rallies. Executive members enjoy sharing and meeting ladies from all Zones where possible. I was blessed to share the weekend with the Central Zone for their Rally/Retreat at Tannum Sands. Forgiven Women-Forgive! Such a great theme and such a privilege to meet with the ladies of this Zone who find the distance difficult to join in the south. It was wonderful to have ladies from 3 other Zones present to support and join in fellowship with Central Zone. Palm Sunday Service was shared with Gladstone Congregation.

LWA Convention: Oct 1-3 at Murray Bridge SA is the place to be and be a part of LWA Convention. LWQ are still working on organising travel bookings through Sue McPherson Travel. Hopefully, if you are a little apprehensive organising your own travel, this may help. Information in via Newsletter and Lutheran Woman Mag. We pray some will join our Sisters in Christ in study, praise, fellowship and update information of Lutheran Woman's work through Mission both local and overseas. This will be a busy year with Retreat, Rallies, Fellowship Days and LWA Convention. I hope to meet and share with many of you at various events.

Grace and Peace - Val



“BEACH – BIBLE – BELONGING”

Theme: Prov. 27:9

“A sweet friendship refreshes the soul”

**LWQ Retreat, 8 – 10 March 2024
Held at Maroochy Waterfront Camp &
Conference Centre Maroochydore
Hosts - Brisbane South & Gold Coast
Zone**

71 Ladies and 16 men arrived Friday afternoon ready to enjoy a relaxed weekend **belonging** to one another in Christ as Lutheran Women of Qld. Re-shifting our focus and opening our senses and heart to God centring around **Faith, Friendship and Service in the love of God** that will enrich us. With the added treat of ‘No food preparations – No dishes in the sink’. Thanking God for the opportunity to delve into our word in the **Bible** and to experience a sense of **belonging** in you.

Naomi Marks, Pres. BS&GC Zone welcomed all present.

Our **Bible verse theme** for this weekend was from Proverbs 27:9 “A sweet friendship refreshes the soul”. Let us be reminded of our aims as Lutheran Women of Qld.

1. To encourage deeper consecration and greater service to Christ and His church; in particular through the study of Scriptures and to share, especially with women the good news of God's salvation in Jesus Christ.

2. To co-ordinate and give impetus to the work of women of the LCA.

3. To foster the bond of Christian fellowship among women of the LCA Qld. District. With these thoughts in mind let us relax in Christ and build one another up in Christian love.

Naomi introduced the team leaders: Leanne, Colette, Shirley, Sharon, Sue, Narelle, Helene, Kay and herself. Explaining the importance of having a “Buddy” for the weekend.

Pastor Jordan Bennett – newly appointed Spiritual Leader for LWQ was introduced and asked to say a Blessing over the weekend.



Each table was decorated with an ocean theme and each session we moved to a different group thus meeting someone new each time.

Beach. Bible, Belonging: There is something magical about **the beach!** It is the magnitude of God's creation and how we are a small part of something huge. As we throw a beach ball around and between our friends, we are reminded that the ball is a circle – no beginning – no end! And we realise the treasures of **friendship.**

What does the Bible say about the beach and the river? We heard lots of Bible verses relating to both with the last one, Isaiah 66:12 “And behold the Lord said: I extend peace to her like a river.”

Next, we took a **beach** excursion around the world (without leaving the room!) by looking at the power point of pictures of **Beaches** and guessing where they are situated on a map of the world provided on our tables, the narrator gave us clues for us to pinpoint on our map, which did test our knowledge of the world.

Supper and lights out ready for a new day.

Saturday Morning Devotion: Sunrises and sunsets at the beach are spectacular. We are in awe of the colours God paints across the sky. The beauty of the sunset fades to darkness so His stars can shine brighter. A small child's thoughts: The sun has to fade so the stars can come out and shine! Let's shine His light in the world He's placed us!

Praise time: followed by Discovering the Bible:

How do we find what's in the Bible?

God wanted to show how much He loved His people. So, he gave them a special book – THE BIBLE. 66 books – 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.

When was the Bible written?

The Bible is a collection of writings, and the earliest writings were set down nearly 3,500 years ago. The earliest writing began when symbols were scratched or pressed on clay tablets. The Egyptians refined this technique and developed an early form of writing, known as hieroglyphics. And so, we learnt a lot of just how we have come to know and love our Bible. Finishing the morning with prayer; Thanking God for the life-changing truth of who we are and how He loves us.

Praising Him through singing - songs of praise.

Belonging to God in Christ: For everyone, a place of belonging starts with our relationship to God: If we could ask God one question what would it be? How do we describe our relationship with God today?

One story of Belonging is told in Luke 7:36-50 Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Belonging to each other in Christ.

Eph.3:14-21 tells of Christ's love and power in the life of a believer. Paul prays for the church of Ephesus and the surrounding churches.

Relaxation before afternoon tea we participated in a Round Robin competitions by belonging to our groups and following the leader to participate in the games.

Saturday night dinner, our men folk joined in with a roast meal after a trip around the hinterland of the Sunshine Coast.

After the meal each group was presented with a script and given 30 minutes to prepare. Then, with minimal props and memorization, return a fantastic performance!! The **Bible** does not say "Blessed is the sourpuss" In fact this weekend we have discovered that the



Bible is a book of **JOY**. Its words of happiness far outnumber its words of gloom. So, we were invited to laugh, to have fun, and join in the spirit of humour and excitement.

Our MC Leanne welcomed everyone to the "**Laugh & the Bible laughs with you**" LWQ Concert for 2024. She capably adlibbed us through the 'unknown' entertainment that followed. Acts performed were:

Before Eve met Adam – Genesis

Split Decision – Solomon

Dances with Lions – Daniel

The beauty Pageant – Esther

Little Mister – Galatians

Thanksgiving – Luke

The Lost Sheep – Luke

Fitness Lessons at the Lords Gym - Acts



Lastly: Christmas according to the Bible – all Books being highlighted with chocolate bars!

Lots of fun and laughter was the order of the evening.



The closing devotion was taken from "Is the Bible the inspired Word of God" by Jason & Ron Carlson

First: the Bible is not just one single book. The Bible is a collection of 66 books containing a variety of history, poetry, prophecy, wisdom etc. **Second:** These 66 books were written by 40 different authors from a variety of back grounds. **Third:** They were written over a period of 1,500 years. **Fourth:** They were written in 3 different languages. Therefore, lots of reasons to believe that the "Bible is the inspired word of God."

Sunday Worship Celebration – Led by Pastor Jordan. Our worship was a remembrance of Christ's Crucifixion and



resurrection through “The way of the Cross.” We received Holy Communion – thanking God for the forgiveness that is ours because of what He was willing to do for us; summarised by the final hymn: “May the feet of God walk with you.”

After the service we heard greetings from LWA Pres. Grace Kroehn. Greetings from LWQ Pres. Val Kath and the announcement of next year's Hosts: WBB Zone. Grace for our lunch and final farewells until 2025.

INTRODUCING OUR LWQ SPIRITUAL ADVISOR—Pastor Jordan Bennett.



We asked Pastor Jordan to write a little about himself, and he said he never knows how to start! But as you will see, we think he is a self-confessed storyteller. We are certain you'll all enjoy what he will share in the upcoming issues. (Editor)

We will start with:

Part 1:

My journey into ministry in the Lutheran Church is weird and has more twists and turns

than Chubby Checker in a blender. I first felt called to the ministry when I was about 6 would you believe? I remember playing with matchbox cars under the front pew at Boonah Church of Christ and watching my dad preach and I felt God say: “that'll be you one day.” I thought cool and went about my day.

Now some more actual facts! I met my wife in Sunday school when we were 5 and we grew up together. We married young: March 17th 2007. We were both 20 at the time. My wife's name is Emma, and we have a son (Mackenzie, Mac for short), and a daughter (Lucy, Lucy for short). Mac is 13 and Lucy is 11. We've hit the fun stage of growing up! Yay hormones!

I play guitar, bass, drums, and the 'fool'. I love woodworking and furniture restoration. I'm a petrol head and love anything with a V8. I play a lot of video games with my kids, and we also throw the football and baseball around the yard a lot. I learned how to crochet many years ago but have forgotten all (much to my mother's shame). I like the colour green. I was in the Air Force Cadets. My first car was a 1979 Holden Gemini panel van, banana yellow (of course the police knew who I was.)

Looking back over my life's story, I can honestly say, God has been with me every step of the way, even when I didn't want Him to be. He has saved my bacon so many times, and delivered me from the depths of despair more times than I can count. I tried to walk away from Him and the church, but now, I am so honoured to be a part of His Kingdom this way. I get to spend my life telling people they are loved, and honestly, what a job!

In closing I'd like to share my two favourite passages from the Bible. Psalm 139 has always been a favourite. But Isaiah 46:3-5: “Listed to me, you descendants of Jacob, all the remnant of the people of Israel, you whom I have upheld since your birth, and have carried since you were born. Even to your old age and grey hairs I am He. I am He who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you: I will sustain you and I will rescue you. “With whom will you compare me or count me

equal? To whom will you liken me that we may be compared?"

God is always there. Always will be. Always has been, Even when you think you've gone so far down the wrong road that you can never come back, **God is there.**

God Bless, Pastor Jordan
(Part 2 will follow in next issue)

FROM LWA PRESIDENT - Grace Kroehn

By the grace of God, we have journeyed through another year, coming together for times of bible study, fellowship, worship and in support of one another – in our home fellowships/guilds/groups and then at zone activities and state conventions and retreats – and also in our communities. I pray that you have all been encouraged and supported by your attendance and participation.

The mid-term meeting of the LWA Council was held in North Adelaide on July 26 & 27 2023. Pr John Gerhardy and Pr Paul Fielke presented the opening and closing devotions and provided valuable support to our discussions. Complete an update of the Constitution, and hear from representatives of various LWA Projects, and meet some of the officials from LCA National Office. Attention to financial matters, enabled the distribution of accumulated funds (totalling \$60,000) to various projects, the full details being provided in the October/November issue of the Lutheran Women Magazine.

\$10,000 from the Pastoral Ministry Students Assistance Fund has also been given to support the work of Pastor Julian Mazzeo, recently ordained as Pastor to the Adelaide Deaf Community Church whose worship base is the Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Magill SA. Accumulated funds in the ALC Pastoral Ministry Students Assistance Fund are invested in Term Deposits with the LLL. With only a small number of students, call for assistance has been minimal. There is

presently in excess of \$50,000 in this fund and we suggest that at this time, you may like to choose to direct your financial support to some of the other listed projects. The ALC Women's Auxiliary have chosen to go into recess. Only two units have been occupied by ALC student families, with all other units being commercially let and some sold. So this project also requires minimal support at this time.

The mission fields of South-East Asia and Papua New Guinea have continued through your generous support throughout the year. Our treasurer Beryl Smith has advised that at December 31, 2023 we have 2316 members, and a total of \$93,661.26 was distributed during 2023 to the LWA nominated projects. Thank you for your generous 'mission hearts.'

Many thanks to the Magazine team of Grace Bock, Felicity Evans and Maureen Turner, who put together a most informative and encouraging publication, with the Devotions and Bible Studies lovingly prepared for us. Please encourage on-going subscriptions or consider gifting a subscription.

The plans for the LWA Convention in Murray Bridge SA on October 2-3 are progressing well. Keep up to date via the LW Magazine, together with news from executive members attending your conventions/retreats. In anticipation I thank newsletter editors in our states for also providing convention information. Registrations will be available on-line and paper registration forms will be available upon request. I look forward to seeing many of you at Murray Bridge, when you will hear from an array of guest speakers who will acknowledge our chosen theme of 'How great thou art' in their addresses to convention.

I thank God for your prayers and words of encouragement and for the faithful service of those who have been called to their heavenly home and pray that you are all given time and good health to serve as sisters in Christ for yet another year in His earthly kingdom.

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee: How great Thou art, how great Thou art! Great is the LORD! He is most worthy of praise! No one can measure his greatness. Psalm 145:3 (NLT) God's blessings to you all

LWA President: Grace Kroehn

UPDATE: Immanuel Mission Trip – 17th Nov – 5th Dec 2023

God certainly provided for this team of 17 members – prior to departure and during our time in Uganda. His blessings through people on team and those who supported us before we left was amazing and made the work and projects possible.

The first week was spent working with Lutheran communities in areas north of Jinja



(NE Uganda). Due to the number of congregations, their locality and the not-so-good Ugandan roads, we based ourselves in three main areas – Kamuli, Butagaya and Keyeya. In Kamuli, we were able to bring in Pastors, Evangelists and congregation leaders to a training day where we focused on finance, literacy, relationships and hygiene. We had 82 people attend; some leaving their villages at 4.00am to arrive for the 9.30 start.



In Butagaya there is a Lutheran Primary School, a Congregation and the

beginnings of another sewing business. We had sent funds ahead to help in the establishment of the new sewing room and to pay for some of the women to learn to sew. While we were there, we were able to see what they had begun, speak with the women on the operation of the sewing room and provide a

simple hygiene and a health book for them to use to support their families.

Some of the team spent time weeding the crop area of the land, while others played with the children, talked with the women and provided the evangelist, Daniel, with resources for their school, hoes and seeds for gardening and growing food, funds for food and clothing for those in need. We also met with the congregation chairperson from a few congregations, to hear what their needs are for future planning.

In the second week, we spent time doing Watoto activities. Meeting some of the



vulnerable women in the Neighbourhood Program and being able to bless them with basic support items, (flour, sugar, rice, oil, soap, beans), visiting the baby homes in two of Watoto's villages, bringing donated baby clothes, blankets and toys.

Much of what the team was able to achieve was due to the support – financial and donated items – from congregations and individuals, for which we are very thankful! While all team members pay their own individual costs, the team plans and runs various fundraising events for their identified projects, with all funds going directly to those identified projects. Many of you have supported these events and again, we say thank you! It has meant that they have **HOPE** and are able to work towards a better life for themselves and their children. On behalf of the Immanuel team, I would like to thank you for your amazing generosity and support. If you would like any further information or may be interested in joining the next team in 2025, please contact me, Lyndal Mayer Immanuel Lutheran Church Buderim

stephenmayer@bigpond.com

56th LWQ DD Zone Rally
'Holy Trinity' Lutheran Church, HADEN
 16 February 2024
"Follow Me" John: 8:12

A pleasant summer day on 16th Feb 2024, 50 members visitors & Pastors attended the 56th Darling Downs Zone Rally at Haden. The dedicated members of Haden Guild made us all feel welcome and provided a great venue in the church with the beautiful stained-glass windows. The theme was around John 8:12 "Follow Me". After commencing with morning tea, Haden Guild President, Dianne Brown, and LWQDDZ 1st Vice President Cheryl Peters welcomed everyone followed by singing the Theme Song 'Follow Me'.

Pr Mark Demmer (DDZ Counsellor) presented his Devotion on John 8:12 "I am the Light of the World, whoever follows me will not walk in darkness" - We were encouraged to not only FOLLOW Christ, but to lead others to Him also. Bible Study was very capably presented by Hazel Weis, based on John 8:12. From William Barclay's study of John's Gospel, he gives the Greek word for 'to follow' (akoloutein) as having five meanings, with the application to Christians as follows:

The Christian is:

1. The soldier whose commander is Christ;
2. The slave whose joy it is always to serve Christ;
3. The man who guides his life and conduct to the counsel of Christ;
4. The citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven, and he has accepted the law of the Kingdom and the law of Christ as the law which governs his life; or
5. The man who has understood the meaning of the teaching of Christ.

For each meaning, Bible references were given, added to and discussed, then challenged to suggest how do we see a Christian being a follower in this sense today?

Offering of \$755 was shared equally between the new DDZ Project (LCAQD Rural and Regional Hardship Fund), and Uniforms 4 Kids.

Reporter: Michelle Szepanowski

Guest Speaker for the day was Anne McDonald, who, as a retired Qld Police Officer (former Assistant Commissioner - Northern Region) co-founded Uniforms 4 Kids. Over 53,500 items of clothing, dolls, 'Hug Me' Bears, library bags, etc. made by over 400 volunteer sewing machine operators, have been donated since its inception. The items



are donated to abused children, children involved in DV, and children affected by natural disaster, house fires,

etc. All items contain 50% of recycled uniform material, plus discounted or donated new fabric & trims. The services involved in donating the Uniforms include the Qld Police; Aust Federal Police; Australia Zoo; Qld Ambulance; QFES; RFDS; Aust. Border Force; NSW Police & SES; Vic Ambulance.

Election saw most ladies continue in their roles. Acknowledgement and Thanks to Gloria Hamilton (retiring as an Extra Member), and welcome Lois Schultz into this role. We sincerely thank & support these ladies.

P: Jenny Stollznow; 1VP: Cheryl Peters; 2VP: Val Kath; S: Hazel Weis; T: Avalon Hall. Extra Members: Joy Wurst, Cheryl Vonhoff, Robyn Williams, Lois Schultz

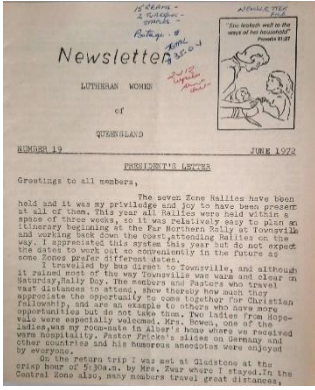
Cheryl Peters presented the Closing Devotion, and the day concluded with fellowship over BYO lunch.



L-R Haden Ladies: Loretta Voll, Cheryl Peters (DDZ 1VP), Rhonda Pukallus, Dianne Brown, June Wolski, Judy Fitch, Debbie Gotz, Hazel Weis (DDZ Sec.)

An interesting Extra (submitted by Michelle)

'My Mum (Marie Ehrlich) was 'cleaning up' and found a copy of the LWQ Newsletter from 1972, with Viola Lange, Macalister as Editor. A couple of interesting items –



"Darling Downs Zone Rally was held at Nobby on May 30th (1972), with an approx. attendance

of 185, being well DOWN on last year's attendance. 30 Guilds attended, 5 absent. Moree Guild, NSW was accepted into membership.

56th LWQ BN & SC Zone Rally 'Prince of Peace' Everton Hills 9 April 2024

"Giving Hearts - Helping Hands"

Matthew 25:40 "Whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters you did for me".

An almost autumn day greeted 40+ ladies and gentlemen who were welcomed with a friendly cuppa on Tuesday 9th April. Zone Pres. Ruth Geitz and Prince of Peace Pres. Gloria Harch welcomed everyone. Guests included Bishop Mark Vainnikka; LWQ Pres. Val Kath; LWQ Vice Pres. Hazel Weis; LWQ Sec. Avalon Hall and other visitors from Toowoomba.

The opening Hymn "Wake us O Lord to human need" led us into Pr Nick Nolan's Devotion. Pr Nick based his Devotion on John 20: 11-17. Mary came back to finish her grieving and found the tomb empty. Jesus called her name, "Mary"! we see Jesus when He calls our name in Baptism. There is humour in this story about 'the race to the tomb'. Peter & the other disciples ran to the tomb with John winning the race! We know they found the tomb was empty. They did not understand, but then they believed the scripture, that Jesus had to rise from the dead. We also get caught up in our life, it is not about keeping score. It is about believing when Jesus calls our name.

Reports: LCAQD Bishop Mark Vainnikka reminded us about the significance of the ALWS "Walk My Way" in May. The money going to help the orphans who have lost homes and families because of the war in Ukraine. He explained how his father was displaced in war and even though he now has dementia and can't recall Mark's name, he can still remember what happened to him in the war. So to, these children will never forget what they are going through right now. The scars stay with them forever. "Walk My Way" is the love of Christ at work. Life is slowly returning to normal after the devastating floods in North Qld. May 4th, will be the dedication of "Back to Wujal Wujal."

Guest Speaker: Haydee Forster, from "Stationery Aid" spoke about how second-hand stationery is repurposed for those in the community who are in need, while at the same time promoting environmentally, sustainable practices. Volunteers sort-clean-renew & remove any names etc. to put together a stationery start pack for the beginning of the school year. They are in touch with over 50 schools through their Chaplains, to identify those in need.

Closing Devotion: Jill Schefe told how our Lord speaks to us today as we have been reminded of His commission to us with our theme "Giving Hearts- Helping hands" words in Matt 25:40. Giving hearts comes from a heart that is right with God. His spirit called us by the Gospel and made us His own in Baptism. I am forgiven I am a Christian because Christ lives in me.



Members of BN & SC ZONE

Reporter: Pam Flesser

LWQ Central Zone Annual Rally/Retreat

23-24 March 2024 – Tannum Sands
Hosts: Gladstone Lutheran Ladies Guild
“Forgiven Women Forgive”

Friday commenced with a “Country Christian Fellowship Day” - organised by a group of ladies from different denominations. 40 ladies and men came together to sing songs of praise.

Saturday we came together for a time to reflect on how God walks with us each day. As well as a time of fellowship and encouragement as we met with fellow Lutheran women. Zone Pres. Dee Challenor welcomed all with the theme *“Forgiven Women - Forgive”*. Devotion and Prayer, followed by singing well known songs. Such joy listening to those singing voices.

AGM elected the new Committee:

P: Carolyn Murdoch; VP: Christine Pukallus;
S: Lorna Bahnisch; T: Carol Hartwig;
Extra member: Dianne Pukallus.

Greetings & Apologies. LWQ Pres. Val Kath presented her report. We were privileged to have 4 Zone Presidents in attendance.

Memorial Hymn: “God be with you till we meet again” was sung while candles were lit as we remembered loved ones.

Pastor Stephen Jaensch from Emerald, our SA, led the Bible Study centred on the theme **“Forgiven Women – Forgive”** It is believed that Thomas Edison made over 1,000 unsuccessful attempts before he successfully invented the light bulb. Everyone told him to stop because he was a failure. But Edison said, “I haven’t failed, I’ve discovered over 1,000 ways in which it isn’t done.” When he was finally successful in his quest, he gave the working light bulb to a young boy to take upstairs. Accidently the boy dropped it. Edison then had to make another. When the second one was completed, he again asked the boy to take it upstairs. He didn’t merely express **forgiveness** in words, he backed it up with his actions and deeds. Edison is also a picture of great **forgiveness**.

Afternoon Guest speaker: Angela May delved further into our theme. Angela shared

that “sin” is a word being removed from our everyday language and forgiveness in the world if often not the same as intended by God in showing His grace and mercy to us in Jesus Christ to save us from sin. We are called to forgive sin and hurt against us as we are forgiven by God.

Project speaker: Geoff Hovey (Gramps), representing Clearview Christian College, Tannum Sands, told how a group of young adults wanted to do something for the youth of this area, God giving them the vision to build a Christian School. They faced many challenges to find land, eventually buying a youth camp and converting into their school. The school opened in 2023 with grades 6 & 7, each year adding another class.

This is our local project and received \$1,311 from offerings taken after hearing the Guest speaker. Zone & Guilds contributed \$880. Other contributions by the Zone Guilds and attendees. Zone Project – Far North Qld – earmarked for Wujal Wujal.

Songs of praise ended our day session with Janine Thurecht on the keyboard. Lois Colyer led the closing Devotion and Prayer.

Sat night we were joined by the menfolk, having toured the Gladstone Area Water Board Aquaculture Centre, fish breeding complex and a talk by Ian Anderson about native beehives and how to split a bee hive. Dinner was enjoyed with guest speakers and partners for an enjoyable meal with speaker, Gramps, giving another short presentation on a story from his life. Sunday morning, we worshipped with St. Martin’s Congregation, Gladstone.

We ask for God’s Blessings on all members of His fellowships as we gather next year –
29-30 March 2025 in Rockhampton



Carol Hartwig, Gail Gerchow, Heather Behrendorff

Reporter: Carol Hartwig

56th LWQ BS & GC Zone Rally

17th April 2024 'Trinity' Southport

"Great is Thy Faithfulness" Lam 3:23

As ladies arrived (many having manipulated the heavy traffic on the M1), they were greeted with a warm cuppa, a variety of delicacies and a tract featuring our theme verse from the charming hosts of 'Trinity'.

As indicated by the chatter, everyone was pleased to meet up once again.

Pam Agnew from Trinity and Naomi Marks, Zone President, welcomed 40 guests to the gathering; extending greetings and apologies from the LCAQD Bishop Mark Vainikka, LWQ Pres. Val Kath and WMZ Pres. Shirley Klinge who were unable to attend. LWQ were represented by executive members, Colette Mangan and Leanne Warbrooke. It was noted that many of our churches in the zone no longer have ladies' groups operating, hence our circle of friends is becoming smaller with only 6 official guilds. Some do have ladies' groups who still meet informally and for that we are very grateful.

The Trinity singers entertained, followed by Pr Will Heidrich's devotion on the Theme recognizing those of faith in the Bible like Abraham & Noah and how the presence of Christ is living in our daily lives.

Guest Speaker: Carolyn Nicholson, regional manager of **Lutheran Services Gold Coast**, Gave a very interesting talk on "Celebrating our shared foundations and future" highlighting the aged care, shelters for domestic violence, 'at risk' people, those with disabilities and mental health who are all assisted by Lutheran Services. She told of her personal journey with her daughter who was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and how Trinity congregation supported her and noted that a vibrant congregation builds a vital community service.

Guest Speaker: Ann Hanson shared her personal story and how she came to be involved writing and producing tracts over the last 18 yrs. with **Lutheran Tract Mission**, which has been operational since 1987. Ann had a lovely display for ladies to browse through including new stock of pop-up cards,

magnets, a series of "Growing Together as Family" tracts. Also bookmarks, stickers and small cards. Ann also took a moment to explain the changes happening at LLL and encouraged people to contact LLL to understand these further. The ultimate changes have occurred so LLL can continue to be able to grant loans to "Lutheran" organizations like our churches & schools.

Offering \$544 went to Lutheran Services, Gold Coast. Sharon Tegan gave a comprehensive vote of thanks on behalf of all present. Sharon presented each speaker with a gift and thanked all those involved with the day for granting us all a beautiful time of fellowship and encouragement from God's word, sustenance from the food and entertainment from Trinity Singers.

Pr Will brought our thoughts back to the Lamentations passage reminding us of how we can say "Great is Thy Faithfulness". God has given us the rock, the stepping stones to him on which we stand. God's presence is with us every day. The closing song "Be still and know that I am God" followed by singing Grace, and enjoying a shared luncheon. Time to purchase from the Trinity Ladies and the LTM stalls and more fellowship and laughter.

Reporter: Leanne Kopp-Verdier

56th LWQ WIDE BAY BURNETT Zone Rally

St. James Lutheran Church, Hervey Bay

18th April 2024

"Renewing Lives" Eph. 4: 23

Denise Hatch Pres. Hervey Bay and Nola Zerner, Zone Pres. welcomed 35 present with 5 apologies. Pr. Ed Shoesmith led the opening Devotion "Put on Christ" interspersed with singing "Breath on Me", "Renew me oh Eternal Light", and "Change my heart Oh God". His address was based on the theme "renewing lives" We were asked to put off our old self, confessing our sins and throwing ourselves on the mercy of our Lord. Then our Lord pours out grace and forgiveness.

Nola Zerner, Zone Pres. presented her report, as did Treasurer Karen Bryce.

The Zone Project for 2024 will continue to be Eva's Place. The offering for the day which totalled \$678, will be divided between "The Hospice" and "Bayside Transformations". An invitation was extended from Murgon Ladies Guild to host Rally Day for 2025 and was accepted with thanks.

Guest Speakers: We heard an inspirational update on the "Fraser Hospice", together with a short video by Alesha and Sharon. Lisa gave a presentation from "Transformations" (A Christian based residential recovery program for people with addictions) along with testimonies from Chris and Tara, who gave an enthralling story of how they had been helped through the program and are now involved as staff members. Transformations receive no Government funding so rely solely on donations and their own fund raising efforts such as preparing vegetables for a restaurant, running an opportunity shop and hosting community events, raffles etc.

Florence Hatchett moved a vote of thanks to all who had participated in providing such an interesting and inspiring day. Lyn Weise read the closing devotion.

Afternoon tea concluded a most enjoyable day of fellowship and renewed friendships.

Reporter: Judy Guse.

56th LWQ WEST MORETON Zone Rally

30 April 2024

"Be Joyful" Romans 12:13

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer.

A wonderful day of fellowship at Green Pastures, Lockrose. A small bank of ladies prepared a sumptuous morning tea with tables tastefully decorated by 5 students from Faith Lutheran College with their teacher Mrs. Christine Taylor. Staying for the morning with their smiling faces as they served tea and coffee. They were suitably thanked at the end of the day.

The amazing colorful, quilted banner was made by Lockrose member Robyn Benfer, depicting the words of the theme, **Hope**. Welcome packs contained a beautiful hand crocheted cross made by Joy Harch. The welcome card was designed and made by Faith College Students.

Pr Peter Geyer, Zone Spiritual Advisor, based his devotion on the theme text. He emphasized what the terms of the text mean. **JOYFUL** – to be happy eg the birth of a child **PATIENT** – waiting without complaining **FAITHFUL** – in prayer, unwavering faith **HOPE** – look to the Cross, God has something better. Pray without ceasing and Praise God.

Guest Speaker: Mayor of Lockyer Valley Regional Council, Ms Tanya Milligan told about her adopted life, her Christian loving adoptive parents and her journey through her teens, marriage, birth of 2 children and sadly a breakdown in marriage. However, this did not stop her as she ventured on into council when her children were 9 & 3. Eventually becoming Mayor even though at the time she was 4 months into her cancer journey. Tanya took us through her cancer journey not once but twice. Tanya was a source of encouragement as she said she is no different to us, she laughs, cries, and hates menopause. In the loss she finds purpose. Her short hair reminds her of how God sees her. Faith builds character and despite the low times, she remains joyful. Tanya has many Bible texts that get her through tough times.



Mrs Faye Gutzke presented Tanya with a handmade quilt which Faye had crafted. Members voted to sponsor Bishop Mark and Assist Bishop Ben's daughter, Madi at the ALWS "Walk my way" for Ukraine. Each receiving \$200.

In the absence of nominations, West Moreton Zone members were asked to prayerfully consider the positions of President and Secretary. Otherwise, sadly the Zone may have to close. As there was no nominations voting was postponed until Fellowship Day in October in Laidley.



Vice Pres. Faye and the executive presented Retiring Pres. Shirley Kling with flowers and a beautiful book thanking her for her 10 years of service as Pres/Sec. Shirley thanked all for their support over the years and especially to Pr Peter Geyer for his guidance and support.

Reporter: Shirley Klinge

VALE: Viola Lange

Viola served as LWQ Newsletter Editor for 38 Years from 1972 – retiring in 2009. In 2010 Helen Simpson took on the role. Viola with husband Ossie lived at Macalister on the Darling Downs. They moved to Caloundra in April 1997 where Viola also served on the BN & SC Zone executive. Viola passed away peacefully on 6th May. Her funeral will be held in Caloundra on 6th June.

FROM THE EDITOR:

1 Thess 5:18 “Give thanks, for this is God’s will for us in Christ”.

I give thanks to you our readers, but most of all thanks to the Reporters. Enabling us to keep in touch with fellow members of LWQ.

It is important that as soon as your Zone decides on a date for your **Rally & Fellowship Days** to send that information to the Secretary, Avalon so Rally Days can go in the November issue and Fellowship days in the May issue; so those who wish to attend have time to mark their diary.

Check out the LWQ Web page. Pastor Jordan Bennett, LWQ Spiritual Advisor is adding his thought provoking messages also.

Together in Christ, *Pam Flesser*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

7 June new cut off date for anyone wishing to participate in group travel to LWA

Convention, Murray Bridge, SA 1-3 October

RSVP: Avalon: no_lava2010@hotmail.com

Fellowship Days: 2024

Darling Downs Zone

Thursday 25th July 2024, Maclagan Public Hall, 9.00 BYO Morning tea & lunch (12.30)

Theme: “In God’s Garden”

Guest Speaker: Sandy Kahler

Wide Bay Burnett Zone

Thursday 22nd Aug 2024, Bundaberg North

Theme: “Salt of the Earth”

Brisbane North & Sunshine Coast Zone

Wednesday 4th Sept 2024, 9.30am Morn/tea provided, 12.30 byo Shared lunch, St. Mark’s Caloundra. Guest Speaker: Destiny Rescue

Theme: “Reaching out with Love” Prov. 31:8-9

West Moreton Zone

October – Laidley

LWA 19th Convention – Oct 1-3 2024

Unity College, Murray Bridge SA

Theme: “How Great Thou Art”

Info: (April - May) LW Magazine

2025

Central Qld Zone Rally/Retreat

29-30 March 2025, Rockhampton.

LWQ Retreat/Convention

16-19 May 2025 Kingaroy - Hosts: WBBZ

Theme:

“Looking forward looking back” Is 46:3 & 4

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION:-

Deadline for Nov. Newsletter 25/10/24

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