



2016 Annual Report

St. James Lutheran Church
Whyalla

Get Connected

No matter your gift there is a place of service in the body of Christ just for you.

2016 ushered in some quite significant challenges for this community, particularly as the fate of the whole city, its workforce and community still hung in the balance as the year ended.

I pray that having faith and being connected through our church community helped you take comfort and gave you hope during tough times. The Bible tells us that we are to expect trials and tribulations but when they come they come hard they do test our faith.

But God also wants us to have peace; a peace that passes all understanding.

So even during these tough times, as a church community I feel that we have been particularly blessed as the Holy Spirit was working through us when we were a neighbour to others and when we served both our church and community.

Being connected in this way, being supportive of one another, sharing our joys and sorrows and building each other up are ways of letting the Spirit into our lives and sharing the love of God the Father who will never abandon us.

**GET
CONNECTED**

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Pastor's Report

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:1-5, NIV)

I'm sure I'm not being presumptive when I say that as a community we desire to produce spiritual fruit. And while it is more than true that this community in its history as a people together has produced much fruit; we all desire more fruitfulness for ourselves, for those we love and for the community we happily make our home in.

To this end we must in every way seek and strive more and more to be connected to the one in whom we bear fruit; Any path of action which is not firmly connected to Christ will prove fruitless.

In 2016 in key leadership groups such as Church Council and SMT we endeavoured to ensure all action began and was more deeply rooted in Christ. As such we spent more time deliberately praying in meetings; seeking Gods direction and asking him to guide our work trusting that as we commit all things to Jesus, our ministries will continue to be fruitful. This small shift along with the monthly morning and evening prayer meetings I believe has laid a foundation of strategic prayer for all that we will do into the

future.

Through our teaching ministry; be it preaching, bible studies or groups such as the book club. We have endeavoured to provide opportunities where we can interact and grow in our knowledge of God's word, that the graft we have in Jesus would become ever more vital.

If we continue to strive in these fundamentals it will ensure that the connection of most importance in our lives the connection to our heavenly father will remain strong.

It is out of a healthy connection to God that all other connections are strengthened and grown.

I am certain that if we grow more into God; as a Church family we will continue to find ever greater unity and fellowship amongst ourselves;

And as Gods people in the world we will be given more opportunity to effectively minister into the lives of the people we cross paths with day to day.

In Christ, these connections will be fruitful, without him they will not.

"we spent more time deliberately praying in meetings; seeking Gods direction and asking him to guide our work "

We must be prepared for all the opportunities that God will bring so let us strive evermore to of first importance remain in Him.

2016 was a year where I felt an overwhelming sense of pride for the wonderful people God has placed me amongst to do ministry. I see Christ in you, I see the fruit he bears in you and it brings me much Joy. Thank you for all the support you have all shown to me, Lauren and Eve throughout the year. I eagerly await to see the wonderful things God has planned in 2017.

Pastor Tim

Chairman's Report

A Chairman's role is to ensure that the operational matters of the organisation are met in terms of the Constitution. The Pastors role is ensuring that we fulfil our spiritual mission to be faithful to God and be a neighbour to each other and the world.

Naturally these roles are not exclusive and they overlap a great deal. The Pastor and the Chairman need to be 'connected' and with the support of the Church Council, all work as a team.

We are not an organisation or a social group formed to meet our own aims or objectives. Together, we are 'the body of Christ' and it is important to recognise our purpose and mission in that context. We seek to accomplish that purpose and mission despite trials and tests of our faith with the help of the Holy Spirit.

In addition, our purpose and mission are supported by you, the congregational member. The often unseen contributor to the things that must be done for the organisation to run smoothly, for when an organisation runs smoothly, we are less distracted and it is easier to remain true to our mission.

I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to Pastor Tim and the Church Council members for their support and teamwork during the past year. I particularly enjoy the consistent message that Pastor Tim brings to us through his sermons. In the past couple of years there has been a renewal of our congregation particularly with the addition of young families with children. It is truly a joy to hear their young voices and see their smiling faces at each service and function.

I also take joy each time we care and look after each other in times of need. This is a way we become deeply connected to each other, by 'bearing one another's burdens and so fulfilling the law of Christ' (Galatians 6:2).

We continue to be deeply blessed and it is a privilege to serve as your chairman.

Keith Sichler.

We Need You!

When things go seamlessly, without incident and as they should do, it is easy to think that the job must be an easy one.

In reality, someone expertise, someone's voluntary service and someone's talent have made it look that way.

Do you have a talent that you keep squirrelled away, hidden under a bushel?

Is there some aspect of church life that you would like to have a go at if only someone would show you or point you in the right direction?

Sometimes, it is only by 'having a go' that you even discover the hidden talent within yourself.

Having the talent, is God's gift to you. Putting it to use is your gift to God. You may think your contribution is only small but to God, all contributions are equal.

As the body of Christ, we are all here to encourage one another and build one another up.

So I encourage you to lift your head, look around and see where you might make a difference.

Kids Church

2016 has been a wonderful year for our Kids Church.

It has been a year where we have been able to see the spiritual growth of our children. A number of children attending Kids Church are now willing and eager to pray for each other, by using their own words and praying out loud. The prayers that these children pray show the love and respect that they have for each other and God. It is so awesome to see the Spirit at work in these little people.

We are using the Bible Song material for our lessons. Each Bible Song theme is split over two Sundays so that we have the opportunity to get through the whole lesson plan.

2016 saw the induction of some new Kids Church leaders. This has really been helpful for both the long-term leaders and for the children. It gives the children the opportunity to see how different people live and share their faith. So a big thank you must go to all the leaders and helpers who give freely of their time and energy to enable us to provide this service to our children. Without them we would not have a children's ministry.

Thanks also to the parents who regularly bring their children to worship.



The children's depiction of the stoning of Stephen

Having a group of Christ focused children singing, working and praying together is what God wants for His church family. Its active and its fun.

So my 2017 challenge to St James is, **HOW CAN WE CHANGE WHAT WE ARE AND DO** so that people and especially children, feel welcome, loved and valued. The kids really appreciate the presence of adults in their church.

Having a group of Christ focused children singing, working and praying together is what God wants for His church family.

So come on people, spend some time in Kids Church. Maybe you have done your time but as you are still alive, the kids value your presence and God still has a purpose for you. Maybe this is what He wants from you and for you.

Yours in Christ
Chris Jaensch.

md
baptism
day

21st Feb
Henley Maynard
Daughter of John & Bethany

1st May
Rose Dyer
Daughter of Ben & Megan

15th May
Harrison Fechner
Son of Jarrad & Kylie

Support Group

We were again blessed during the year to meet together every fortnight to enjoy Christian fellowship with each other. We share good times and for those who have problems, offer comfort and prayers to give them encouragement. We always begin with a short devotion.

We made up a programme of suggested activities and decided at each meeting what we would like to do the next time we meet. Weather and circumstances dictated our outdoor events. Outings included visits to the Ada Ryan Gardens, Wild Dog Hill and the Wetlands.

We had two guest speakers; David Jaensch spoke about heart attacks and the different methods of resuscitation compared to how it used to be and how to stop bleeding in general, mainly a blood nose. He demonstrated temporary splints for broken limbs said that crooked limbs should be straightened rather than leaving them crooked. Two ladies from the Church of Christ joined us for that meeting.

Colin Barratt told us how the Clubs first began through to what it has become internationally and the local clubs. He also had a very interesting display of banners, medals and books to illustrate.

Indoor activities included Beetles game, Trivia, old photo's, sing-a-long and DVD's.

We donated \$50 each to the Royal Flying Doctor Service and Angel Flight as well as our annual Bible Society donation.

Our year closed with a Christmas Luncheon. Some members of the congregation joined us for some fun and fellowship and Pastor Tim gave a short devotion. Carol singing, a quiz, a skit and Kris Kringle were enjoyed by all. A very big thank you to Maralyn and Colin Barratt for the preparation of the luncheon.

Peg Breerton.



Picnics at the Wetlands and Wild Dog Hill were a couple of outings enjoyed by the Support Group

Church Camp

This is the perfect, low cost weekend getaway. Just south of Tumbly Bay at the Trinity Haven campsite, with an extraordinary bunch of people.

There is a lot to do, or not much - it's your choice, but either way its relaxing.

Some went walking - or not.

Some played games - or not.

Some went canoeing - or not.

Some chatted - or not.

Some went swimming - or not.

Some went fishing - or not.

Kids were kids and sometimes the adults too.

There were lots of laughs and meals to share. Close your eyes, sit in a chair and ponder how blessed we truly are.



Everyone in the same place at the same time. Remarkable!

Pride in the Park

This is how we connect!

Pride In the Park is a free annual event arranged by Advancing Whyalla and designed to create a positive view of the city amongst its residents. Clubs, groups and organisations are encouraged to participate by providing entertainment on the stage or setting up a stall to promote themselves, develop membership opportunities and showcase what they contribute to the fabric of Whyalla.

We have taken up this opportunity for the past seven years and proudly offer activities for young children to play and make a mess without getting into trouble. The outside shade has all the messy stuff such as gloop and bubbles whereas inside the tent there is craft and colouring in.

Whilst all this is happening, parents take the opportunity to rest and gather their breath.

Each child received a show-bag containing Christian literature and materials supplied by Lutheran Media Ministry. Each bag also contains a helium filled blue balloon which is easily recognised as the children make their way around all of the displays in the Park.

Helpers got off to an early start delivering all of the materials, pitching the tent and shade and then setting up the inside.

Chris Jaensch had been busy in the weeks leading up to the event, making all of the gloop and bubble mix. Helpers during the day include Maralyn Barratt, Dianne & Trevor Zimmermann, Angela Kroschel, Annette Waters and Marilyn Sichler.

At the end of the day, everything has to be dismantled and taken back to the Church, so it's although it's a busy day, there is also lots of opportunity to mix and make connections.



Children play in the gloop and bubbles



Children have fun with craft and glue whilst their parents gather their breath.

Women's Fellowship

Our group of 11-16 women meet for FUN, FAITH and FELLOWSHIP and spiritual guidance with Pastor Tim on the last Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm. During the winter months we meet in private homes for comfort and warmth.

During the year we had a range of guest speakers including a slideshow presentation by Robert Brereton on his Gallipoli trip, Leanne Simpfordorfer sharing her Whyalla Australia Day Award 2016 for service to Girl Guides and Norma Matters advising us on Advance Care Directives, Enduring Power of Attorney and Wills.

The FELLOWSHIP activities of our group during the year included hosting the World Day of Prayer (Cuba) and the Whyalla's combined fellowship birthday in July with 47 attendees. Five ladies attended the Upper North Zone Fellowship day at Laura where 30 pillowslips and 10 knitted blankets were donated to the Lutheran Community Care in Adelaide. Eight ladies attended the Whyalla Combined Advent service hosted by the Church of Christ fellowship group where FUN, FAITH and FELLOWSHIP were enjoyed.

At the annual Anglican Church Christmas tree display at Westland's we entered our Christmas tree adorned with traditional handmade Chrismons decorations and explanations. During this week long display our members volunteered 2 hours each day to be in attendance to share in the spirit of Christmas with the wider community people walking past.

Our fundraising activities this year included a Mother's day trading table, a number of church morning teas and delicious soups in winter after church and catering for several funerals.

From these funds we purchased and had installed security window screens along the back of the hall

building and the purchase of the concrete foundation-front fence of the Christian Education Centre. We provided items for the Pride in the Park in October and donations to Leprosy Mission, Royal Flying Doctors Service and Lifeline and also funding to our Cambodian Student Ravann Nem in her last schooling year. Our local Whyalla project of \$500 donation went to Riley Nixon who has suffered with major complications and loss of limbs from meningococcal disease. In the spirit Christmas the gifts of 9 fruit cakes and 3 teddy bears were purchased and delivered to the home communion church members.



Our group taken at the Christmas meal held on the 30th November.

Our 2016 Christmas meal together was great FUN and a real celebration of our FAITH in Christ sharing this FELLOWSHIP meal of pizzas and Chinese food purchased along with our sweets to share. We sang Christmas Carols and received a mystery gift and tried Di's hard quiz. Serving us in the kitchen were several men who were rewarded with a free meal. Thank you to all the members/friends who made this year a great Christian FELLOWSHIP experience.

I will be glad and rejoice in Thee. Psalms 9:2

Carolyn Ronan

Christmas Play



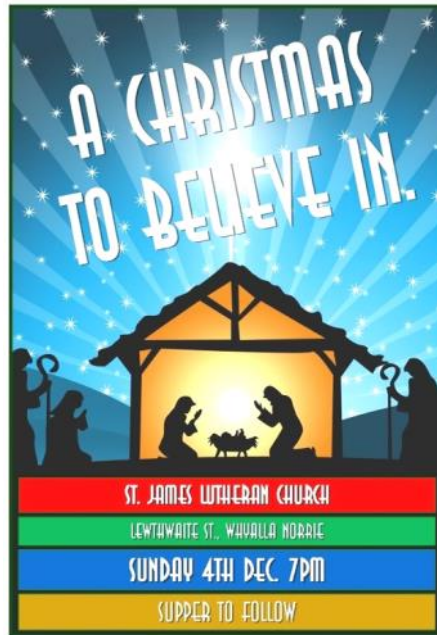
Christmas Play

A Christmas to Believe In

The play this year focussed on two Narrators preparing to read the Christmas Story. One however wasn't sure if they actually believed it or not. The first Narrator agreed to tell the story to see if the other will believe or not. Meanwhile the play was acted out as the Narrators went through their story.

Lauren Spilsbury and Rebecca McNicol acted out the parts of the two Narrators whilst Mary Simpfendorfer and Julian Hutajulu played Mary & Joseph. As usual there were Wise Men & Shepherds (Brock & Cooper Zimmermann & Darius Hutajulu), Angels (Olivia, Scarlett, Ava & Mel Bergman and Loisa & Frenty Hutajulu). This year there were also Towns people (Di Zimmermann, Carolyn Ronan,

Leanne Simpfendorfer & Marilyn Sichler), Herod (Andrew Schwenke), a soldier (Darren Bergmann) some Advisors (Di Zimmermann, & Marilyn Sichler), together with Elizabeth and Zechariah (Katrina Rohrlach & Owen Taylor)



The Band (Peggy, Netty, Ally and Sichy) played up-tempo contemporary Christmas songs and by the end, the doubting Narrator was a believer. Hooray!

Many people contributed to making this event a success and the Producers (Chris, Con & Keith) would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to this event. Far too many to mention individually, but you know who you are!

Thank you one and all.



The cast and the Band sing their final number.

Child Support Connections

Ravan Nem is 15 years of age lives at Promey near Preah Vihear in Cambodia. She has been sponsored by the Women's Fellowship since 2015.

She attends school at Plas Prai in Grades 10-12 and hopes to be a nurse when she completes school.



Marselino da Costa lives in Lautern, Timor Leste.

Our sponsorship of Marselino began in 2002 as a Kid's Church Project when Marselino was 7 years old.

Over the years we have been sent letters and photographs and watched him grow into a young man who wants to go to University and become a teacher. At present he is attending English and Computer classes.

Beach Picnic



HEBREWS 10:25

Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer.

One fine sunny day after service on November, a number of us headed to the Foreshore for a Picnic. BBQ's got cooked, salads were made and trees climbed, all according to the talents we have been given. In other words, the men tended the BBQ, the women made the salads, the kids climbed the trees and we all got connected over a shared meal.



Mending Fences

Our old fence in front of the 'CEC' gave way during the year and some of it collapsed into the street. Who you gonna' call? Fencebuilders!

A mix of concrete, a few slabs of colorbond, some screws and railings and voila, a new fence.

Thanks to Con for the donation of colourbond, Women's Fellowship for their donation to cover costs and especially Bob & Andrew who managed most of the demolition and all of the construction with some extra help from Tim and Ben who carted bricks.

Bob and Andrew with their new creation.

