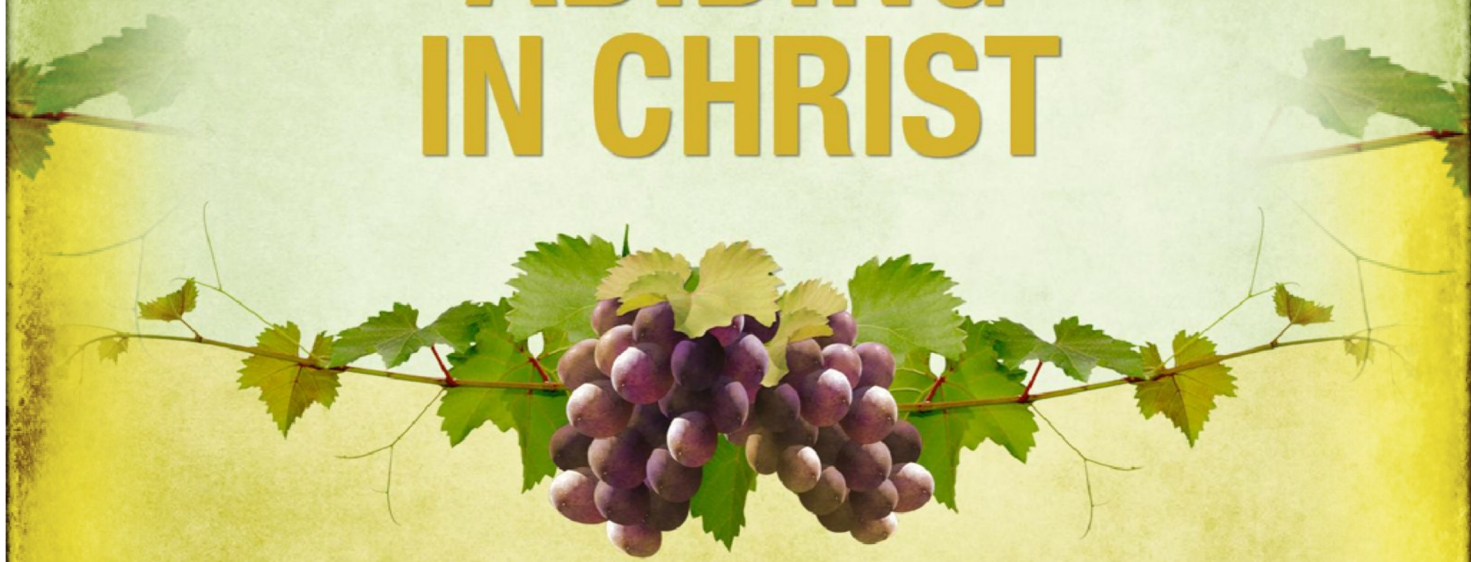


# Annual Magazine 2019

## ABIDING IN CHRIST



Staying Close To The Source Of Life

John 15:5



*St James*

L U T H E R A N

W H Y A L L A

ABIDE LOVE SHINE



## **John 15:5**

Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches.  
Those who remain in me, and I in them,  
will produce much fruit.  
For apart from me you can do nothing.—NLT

# Chairman's Report

**W**e began 2019 in Pastoral vacancy but with high hopes and expectations. However with over fifty parishes in vacancy and over thirty of them in South Australia, the task of securing a minister was always going to be challenging. Our Parish Call Committee identified quite a number of pastors who potentially, would 'suit our style' and we began contacting them by phone or email with the question: "Is there anything that would prevent you considering a call at this time?" This was seen as a short cut to holding a series of call meetings to potentially call a minister who was either unwilling or unable to answer the call. In all, we contacted nearly a dozen ministers this way and although all gave us serious consideration, none were willing to answer in the affirmative. In the second half of the year we reverted to the traditional formal 'Call System' however a similar result awaited.

Finally we requested the College of Bishops consider this parish as a destination for one of this year's ALC graduates, and our prayers were answered with Pastor Lee van Rossen accepting the call. We were overjoyed!

Many people do many things on a week to week basis for our congregation and if you are reading this, you are more than likely one of them. Whilst there are too many of you to thank individually, some do need to be mentioned for their contribution this year of pastoral vacancy.

Firstly, many thanks to Ian McArthur for his dedicated and tireless work in arranging visiting ministers for us. The regular provision of Holy Communion and sermons of encouragement were spiritual food for all of us. And if this wasn't enough to keep him busy, Ian also produced most of the year's Weekly Bulletins, organised lay readers and prepared PowerPoints for them.

Our lay-reading team also put their best foot forward as just over half of our services were lay-read. We were fortunate that Allan Greenbank and Chris Jaensch added their voices to those of Ian, Steve Murphy, Dianne Zimmermann, Marilyn Sichler and me.

The manse was used frequently by the visiting ministers but in between we took the opportunity to repaint the interior and replace the air-conditioning and curtains. An outstanding job was done in maintaining the garden by Trevor Zimmermann. Any

green shoot which did not belong was quickly eliminated and the lawns and shrubs were so well manicured the house could have easily featured on one of the TV gardening shows.

A special thank you too to Chris Jaensch and her band of helpers who organise Kid's Church each Sunday. This is largely an unseen activity as it takes place out of sight whilst we are hearing the sermon and taking Holy Communion. This is a vital educational activity for the children and I know Chris does an extraordinary amount of preparation for each Sunday.

Work also commenced during the year on repairing our church front wall which had begun to lean forward at an ever increasing rate. I thank Jim Havelberg for his diligence and attention to detail and I applaud his decision to delegate the operational tasks to his trusty lieutenants in Bob Freund, Rodney Waters and Peter Schmidt plus all their helpers. As the year ended, there are still a few finishing touches awaiting completion but all is in hand.

I would also like to thank the Church Council members for all of their support, knowledge, wisdom and commitment to the wellbeing of this congregation. The Council members, Chris Jaensch, Con Theologou, Andrew Schwenke, Di Zimmermann, Jeff Taylor, Annette Waters and Marilyn Sichler are all caring people who have a wealth of experience in many, many fields. At Church Council meetings, we welcome the Holy Spirit to the table and into our hearts and minds to help guide our conversations. We are truly blessed but there is room for one more at the table as one of two Congregational Representatives so please consider joining this happy and positive group.

May God bless us and keep us as we continue our adventures in 2020.

Keith Sichler,  
Chairman.



St James  
LUTHERAN  
ABIDE LOVE SHINE

# Kid's Church

**W**hat a beautiful group of Kids Church children we have and what an honour it is to share God's word, message and grace with them.

If there is a time that you feel the evil and corruption of this world pressing down on you, you should join us in Kids Church. There you see Jesus shining in the attitude, helpfulness and enjoyment of a small simple group of children.

After a break of a number of years, in 2019 we recommenced using the Come and See Jesus lesson plans. This material has been written by the Lutheran Church of Australia and follows the 3 year LCA lesson plan. This means that the Kids Church lesson is usually based on one of that week's bible readings enabling the teachers to relate what is spoken in church with the story and activity.



The children particularly enjoy having something to take home each week. Most weeks we also provide the children with a take home place mat, a resource provided by Grow Ministry's that opens family discussion and faith sharing opportunities.

A big thank you must go to those older children who assist the teachers. Jayden and Cooper can be relied upon to pitch in and help the class run smoothly.

To the teachers and helpers a big thank you also. We wouldn't have a Kids Church without their dedication.

If you feel the call to our Children's Ministry please let me know.

As I said last year, we pray that what we do at Kid's Church will make a difference in the children's lives and we thank God for the difference that they make in our lives.

Yours in Christ  
Chris Jaensch

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## Church Front Wall Restoration

**A**t the 2017 AGM we were advised that a large crack had developed in the brick work at the top of the front wall and was getting larger due to the sinking foundations.

Following that AGM, a professional engineers report was commissioned on how to rectify the problem and Jim Havelberg appointed as the Project Manager.

It took some time and considerable negotiation before the scope of work and price was agreed and work could begin based on the engineers report. In April 2019 the contract for the repair and restoration was signed and finance arrangements with the LLL were completed shortly thereafter.

The scope of work included jacking up the existing foundations and underpinning the foundations with a significant amount of concrete. Bricks at the top of the wall had to be removed and reset and the windows repointed. The work also included a concrete ramp from the front footpath to the church entrance which was completed during October.

Quite an amount of work was carried out by church members in preparation for the work which involved cutting some 600 bricks to size in case they were

needed to replace any exiting bricks broken in the process. Many thanks to Bob Freund and his band of helpers who spent many hours in the hot sun to progress this part of the restoration project.

Many thanks also to Peter Schmidt and Rodney Waters for their expertise in taking down the cross and cleaning and refurbishing them and all those who attended working bees in the process.

There is still some work to be done at the front of the church as we would prefer not to replace the lawn that was there. That however is another job for another day and congregational members will be asked for their input.

I particularly commend Jim Havelberg for his dedication and persistence to this project. Jim not only spent countless hours designing and negotiating the scope of work and contractual agreements but spent many more endeavouring to ensure that work was completed in a timely manner in addition to attending the organised working bees. Thank you Jim.

Keith Sichler,  
Congregational Chairman.

# Women's Fellowship

Our group of dedicated women meet during the evening on the last Wednesday each month.

In the warmer months we gather in the hall but when it gets cold some of the women generously open their warm homes for us. We average about 12 members per meeting. Di Zimmermann, our President, leads the business section of our meetings where we deal with matters like correspondence, invitations, fund raising and donations, just to name a few.

Our Projects for 2019 were to support the Road Safety Centre and our church building maintenance requirements. Funds are raised for our Projects by hosting morning teas or Soup Sunday's once a month after worship and by holding a Trading Table. In 2019 we also catered for the Rotary Science & Engineering Challenge which was held over 2 days in July. Our members are very generous with their hands and ovens.

In addition to the financial support that we give to our Projects we have been able to help a family while they waited for disability funding, donate hand knitted beanies and blankets to Ceduna community people, prepare 40 Easter handouts, put together 30 birthing kits for Papua New Guinea, make Christmas decorations to be handed out and help fill the roster

for the Festival of Christmas display at our local shopping centre.

During 2019 we attended a number of local Christian women's events. The Combined Women's Advent Service hosted by the Catholic ladies, the World Day of Prayer hosted by the Anglican ladies, the Lutheran Upper North Zone Fellowship Day hosted by Crystal Brook, The Upper North Zone Women's Retreat held at Melrose, the Lutheran Women of SA/NT Convention held at Para Vista and the Whyalla Christian Women Combined Birthdays hosted by the Lutheran Ladies.

Some months during the year we had a bible study led by Di, at other times we just took time out to have a chat.

In April we visited the newly renovated Funeral Parlour, we were all dying to get there!

In May our guest speaker was Karen Harrison from Ripples who talked about her journey as the parent of an Ice addict.

In August Ali Zimmermann kindly shared her son Cooper's journey with Leukaemia.

In November we met together for a meal and meeting to wind up a very busy but rewarding year.

Chris. Jaensch



# The Call to Worship

**B**ack in 2018 there was a collective groan as Pastor Tim told us that he had decided to accept the call to Hervey Bay. I mean, we all knew that it would happen at some stage while at the same time hoping that it never would. Given the number of vacant parishes and the lack of pastors to fill them, we also wondered how long it would take before we had a resident minister again. Would it be 6 months? 12 months? 2 years?

But even with Pastor Tim gone we also knew that every Sunday morning the bell at St James would ring and people would come with the expectation that they would hear God's word and be given the sacrament on a regular basis. So, what needed to be done?

Shortly after Pastor Tim made his announcement, Keith casually spoke to me, as he is wont to do, and asked if I would be interested in making a few phone calls every now and then to invite ministers to visit the Parish to conduct services. Equally casually I said that that would be OK. How hard could it be? Get a list of Pastors, make a few phone calls and everything would be just fine. The list of Pastors duly arrived and I commenced to make the calls.

In those few months after Pastor Tim left, I began to question what I had got myself into. 'I'd like to help, but I'm booked up for the next seven weeks.' 'Try me again after Easter', were some of the replies that I received. This was going to be harder than I thought at first. I eventually worked out that if we were to get any retired Pastors to come our way, I would need to work a long way ahead. Three months seemed to be about right.

While I never gave up trying to get ministers here in the September-December period, I began to concentrate on the early months of 2019. I also found out that making a 'cold call' was also somewhat time wasting as the reply often was that 'I will have to talk to my wife first but she's out at the moment. I'll call you back.' So I began sending an e-mail message to groups of three or four Pastors at a time, telling them who I was, what I was about, here are the dates, and can you help out? Then I'll call you in a day or two. I made it my aim to try to get two Pastors each month to the Parish. By sending e-mails first, then following

up with a phone call .... SUCCESS!!!

First, I filled February, then March. April quickly followed and we were away with a plan and process that worked.

Basically this was what I have done for the last 12 months to get Pastors to the Parish. While there were a few flat spots along the way, we achieved getting at least two Pastors to the Parish each month. How could I doubt that this would happen? We know that God loves the people of St James and the people in the Lutheran Parish across the north and He would never let us down.

***The bell at St James rings out each Sunday to signal that it is once again time to come to worship.***

It seemed that whenever I began to ask where I would find the next Pastor(s) someone at church would say what a good job you are doing. These words of encouragement would spur me on. Keep contacting the Pastors. You will find them ... and we did.

Thank you God, for sending these Pastors to us, and thank you to the team of Pastors who always seemed only too willing to come and help out when they could. Since Pastor Tim left in September 2018, we have had 21 different, mainly retired, Pastors conduct services in the Parish. Not all of them came to Whyalla but took services in Port Augusta and Wilmington

But that is only part of the story. Visiting pastors filled up about half of the Sundays of the year, but the bell rang every Sunday. So, the Pastors are locked in for the next three months but what about next Sunday?

We have always used lay readers to take services when we could not have a minister, either resident or visiting. St James is fortunate to have a team of lay readers who have been only too ready to take service when needed. There's Keith and Marilyn. There's Steve and Dianne. More recently Allan has joined in and Chris has also taken service on one or two occasions. God has certainly looked after us in this regard too. As the one who arranges the lay reading roster, I have never had any of these people turn me down when they could help out. They don't sigh or

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# The Call to Worship

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roll their eyes and signal 'Not you again,' as the work load increased during our vacancy. What a debt of gratitude we owe to these people.

But there is still more ... because there is a third element which is used to be able to present a worthwhile service each time the bell rings on Sunday morning. If my memory serves me right, I first took a lay reading service in 1971 while living in Port Augusta, and have been doing so on a regular basis ever since.

Back then, to take a lay reading service I used the service printed in the hymn book and chose a sermon from a limited number made available in a series of books which the church at large produced each year. Now we have an almost limitless range of resources from which to choose and made available on the church website. The **Worship Planning Page** it's called and it's updated each week. Absolutely everything I need to plan and prepare a service is there. One of the things that members often comment on is the sermon. Again these are sourced from a variety of websites and on any given Sunday I can choose from anywhere up to about 20 or 25 sermons. With such a range

available it can't help but be easy to find a sermon which members find meaningful.

So there in a nutshell is how I have been spending some of my time over the last 15 or 16 months, doing the very best I can to make sure that when the bell rings on Sunday, you, the members of St James, get a service to which you can hopefully look forward each week.

And now we eagerly wait for Pastor Lee to come to Whyalla to take over the mantle of our spiritual leader.

**WELCOME** Pastor Lee. May God bless your time in the Whyalla Parish. The visiting ministers can move on to help out other congregations (of which there are many). The load of the lay readers can diminish to only being approached to take two or three services a year while the bell at St James rings out each Sunday to signal that it is once again time to come to worship.

Thank you God for looking after us so well as we continue to do your work here in Whyalla, Port Augusta and Wilmington ....and long may the bell of St James continue to ring.

Ian McArthur

## Safe Place Coordinator Training

**L**OVE COMES TO LIFE when we treat each other with courtesy and respect, and when the way we behave towards each other reflects the way God loves us.

In September, a group of church leaders gathered for a full day workshop conducted by the LCA Professional Standards Dept. This is required training for Pastors, Church Leaders and people working with children and vulnerable people.

Topics covered included ❖ Demonstrating God's love through our attitudes and behaviours. ❖ Managing poor behaviours ❖ Introduction to SP3 Safety Management System ❖ Planning safe programs ❖ Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

The day was very positive and helped all of us understand the processes of ensuring appropriate behaviour in our congregation in the light of Jesus teaching and ensuring we also meet our legal requirements.

## Home Communion Visits

**H**ome Communion is provided on a monthly basis to those unable to attend our church services. During the year when I was unavailable, members of the Spiritual Ministry Team assisted and thanks to Dianne Zimmermann for your help in arranging visits during this time. During the year eight people received this service at various times.

In the new year, Pastor Lee will visit on a monthly basis and when he is unavailable, I or a member of the Spiritual Ministry Team will visit by arrangement.

Home Communion Coordinator,  
Jim Havelberg

# Support Group

**W**e had another year of loving fellowship.

During the year we had lunch at Ada Ryan Gardens, and then went to the marina to see the dolphins. We had a Tuesday meeting and lunch at the Wetlands, and went to Wild Dog Hill. We have had a social meeting playing 'Beetles', an S.A. Trivia meeting and sometimes just had toasties for lunch or watched DVD's. Also tidying up garden mulch at church.

In September, we went to the Jeff Morgan Gallery in Hawker which features a 30 metre Wilpena panorama and other large paintings. What an amazing gallery! His paintings are so realistic. They have a big gift shop with a Christian section. On the way we went to Quorn Railway Gift Shop. It was a long day, but well worth it.

We finished off the year with a Christmas Breakup at the Sundowner.

Maralyn Barratt

