



St John's Lutheran Church Tea Tree Gully Inc.

Book of Reports

2020

for the

Annual Business Meeting

Sunday 13th December 2020

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Minutes of 2020 Annual General Meeting

St John's Lutheran Church, Tea Tree Gully Inc.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

27th September 2020

1 Welcome

Chairperson, Carey Noack, who welcomed those present, opened the meeting.

2 Prayer

Carey led the congregation with a prayer.

3 Attendance and Apologies

Attendance recorded and noted that it formed a quorum with 43 members present (quorum 20% of 205 = 41).

4 Minutes of 2019 Annual Business Meeting Held 24th November 2019

Moved: Monika Wegener Seconded: Jeff Roberts as being correct – all agreed Carried

5 Matters Arising from minutes of ABM

Chinner Street (refer ABM minutes' item 5.1): Carey informed the congregation that plans were before the council together with a traffic management flow report and soil contamination report as they had requested and now awaiting their approval. Congregation advised that storm water management was needed and temporary sandbags were now in place until development commences.

Redevelopment of Ministry and Fellowship spaces (refer ABM minutes' item 5.2): No further progress at this stage. This item will be ongoing.

Mission Support rewording (refer ABM minutes' item 9): Carey advised a proposal would need to be forwarded if wording was to be renamed. This has not happened.

6 Correspondence - Nil

7 Matters at Hand

7.1 Mission support 2019 review

Stephen presented reviewed Mission Support reports for 2019

Proposal: Be it resolved that the congregation accept the Mission Support 2019 reviewed reports.

Moved: Jeff Roberts Seconded: Eric Wegner All agreed Carried

Stephen spoke on forecast for 2020.

7.2 Replacement of church pews

Carey and Damien spoke to proposal below.

Proposal: Be it resolved that the Congregation replace the current church pews with 250 chairs to be purchased from Buy Direct Online at the cost of \$24,744.60 incl. GST. Funding to be from a combination of cash donations, a SA Govt. Cash Grant already received, the sale of existing pews and, if required, an LLL loan.

Questions taken from the floor and answered with a vote then taken - **Proposal carried**

7.3 Any other business - Nil

8 Meeting Closed 12:30pm

Meeting ended with a prayer and Chair declared the meeting closed.

Carey Noack, Chairperson

Congregation Chairperson

This ends another year in the life of our congregation, a year like no other. It started out in normal fashion, Damien and his co-workers fixed the road-sign and Dave organised a new Selah cabinet. Jake Mulder arrived on another visit here and we again embraced the 'growing young' culture.

Then there was March when something called a corona virus hit the planet and our lives were turned upside down. A whole new vocabulary opened up with words such as COVID-19, social distancing, one and two metre square rules, state border closures, (soft and hard), self-isolation, COVID plans, and then later on COVID Marshals, and the list goes on.

This caused many challenges for Pastor Eugene and the Leadership group. Not being able to worship together was a huge challenge and a situation that we never thought we would face. I believe that despite the restrictions placed on us, all people in the congregation did a wonderful job coping. There were many things put in practice including the phone conversations, the on-line worship, arranging zoom for meetings and bible studies, cleaning and sanitising furniture and buildings, people training as COVID marshals and anything else that had to be done. Time and space doesn't allow me to do justification to the work and the challenges people faced. There was a period when we would have a meeting to decide action, only to go home afterwards, put on the news, to see things change again. Much was learnt through this period, however, not all of the changes were negative, some turned out positive.

It was great to get back to some normal form of worship in August, firstly being able to gather together in the hall, then as restrictions eased further, we returned to the Church. We experimented with a mixture of chairs and pews and a different style of 10 o'clock worship. As Pastor Eugene has said, nothing is permanent allowing the style of worship to continually evolve.

More challenges confronted us in November when the Government re-introduced some of the earlier restrictions, and then decreed a total lockdown for six days. Thankfully this was reduced to three days and again last minute preparations were needed to conform and be able to worship together on Sunday 22nd November.

Though COVID occupied most of our energies during the year, we still had other events happening.

Chairs: A resolution to replace the existing pews in the church with chairs was passed at the AGM 27th September. The chairs were ordered from the supplier and the last we have heard is that the delivery is still on track and should be with us mid to late December. The pews are for sale, and if any member of the congregation is interested in procuring one, please contact a member of the AST Team. The asking price for members is an appropriate donation which can be negotiated. The members of AST are Christine Down, Stephen Pfeiffer, Damien Nitschke, Pastor Eugene and myself. The pews that are not taken up by congregational members will be advertised. Thanks to Damien for the work and preparation he put into organising the total operation.

Carpark: Another problem we had to negotiate during the year was restricting the flow of storm-water exiting onto Chinner Street, to alleviate some of the flooding that was occurring near Eric Street. This means that some of the middle and upper car parks will hold excess water during heavy and prolonged rainfall. It is advised that if there is the likelihood of heavy rain try and not park on the northern sections of these car-parks. This is only a temporary measure whilst waiting for the development of the Chinner St properties.

Chinner Street Upgrade: The progress here is a lot slower than anticipated. While we can blame COVID for some of the delay, we also had to provide TTG Council with proposals re the stormwater, a soil report because of suspected contamination and a traffic report concerning the parking. Each report seemed to come one after the other, so it was a continuous procedure through the middle part of the year. Our most recent advice from the council is that the development as a whole is approved. We currently are finalising all costs and obtaining actual development costs which includes landscaping and buildings.

Constitution: We have completed the new constitution which will be presented at the ABM for congregational approval. A copy has been available.

Phone Books: It was decided by the Admin team to dispense with the delivery of phone books this year. The book numbers have been reduced dramatically, with us probably earning only \$800-\$900. For the work involved in organising, finding volunteers and abiding by the COVID restrictions, it was decided to fore-go delivery this year at least.

Finances: The finances have been a real challenge for Steve this year. We are grateful for both the Federal and State Governments for stimulus payments, along with Job Keeper, which have helped us maintain a healthy position. However, they are only one off payments and with Job Keeper ending in September we can still see some hard challenges ahead. Thanks to Steve for the work he has put in and his report will be tabled at the meeting.

There are many people to thank for their help during the year, but in particular I would like to mention other members of the AST namely Damien, Steve, Christine and Pastor Eugene for the challenges he successfully endured, Sharon and Sue in the office, and other volunteers that helped, and all members of the Leadership teams. It is a pleasure serving with you all.

Finally, blessings are extended to the congregation, and we pray that next year we will be free of the coronavirus and resume some normality.

Thanking you all for your support.

Yours in Christ

Carey Noack, Chairperson

Pastoral Team

In 2020, the Pastoral Team consisted of five people: Adrian Dahlenburg, Tanya Dahlenburg, Mike Flynn, David Kraft and Paul Verrall. And although the year started like many others, that definitely changed as the year progressed, as a result of the impacts of COVID-19.

Given the impacts of the virus globally, we have much to be thankful for at TTG Lutheran, but there have also been many challenges for us as individuals and as a community during the past year.

Many aspects of our ministry were required to be done differently this year, with online and remote connections becoming necessary for certain periods of time, to enable our leadership teams to keep meeting, our community to continue worshipping and for our members and friends to continue connecting and caring for one another. It also meant looking at different ways we could adjust our practices, even when we were able to start connecting again face-to-face, to ensure that we were keeping ourselves and others safe and healthy.

In a year where there has been a lot of bad news and sad situations, I've also been encouraged by the stories I've heard of how God has used this time to continue to connect, grow, equip and send his people. Despite the challenges, many have found a way to connect with others during the year, albeit in a different way than they may have before, and the situation has fostered new and stronger connections between people. Some have shared that by leaning on God and trusting him during this difficult year, their faith has grown and the situation has encouraged many people to spend more time reflecting on God's Word by exploring the Bible on their own or as a family, participating in small group discussions or by exploring online worship services and messages that have been available. I've also witnessed how God has sent many of you to be his hands and feet, in addition to being his voice of encouragement and comfort, as you have reached out and supported others in their time of need, or checked in on how they were going during these unusual times.

From a practical perspective, we continued to meet regularly each month during 2020, as part of the Combined Leadership Team meetings and also separately as the Pastoral Team. It was important this year to continue to have these regular opportunities to discuss the changing environment and how the COVID restrictions and requirements impacted on our church and associated ministries and activities held within our premises.

The Pastoral Team has also continued to seek the leading of the Holy Spirit as it has been revealed to us through God's Word, prayer and sharing, which has remained a focus of our meeting times together. We have also spent time supporting Pastor Eugene and the wider congregation by discussing spiritual and pastoral matters as they arise and making decisions on these as required. We are truly thankful for the way that the Holy Spirit, working through the Word, prayer and the insights of others, has answered and guided us in our discussions and decisions during the year.

In September, the majority of the Pastoral Team were able to participate in our Leaders Retreats held in Goolwa. The retreat was self-funded by the members from all three Leadership Teams, who were able to come together with Pastor Eugene to both reflect on the direction that God has been leading our congregation and to be challenged to look ahead to the future. We felt blessed to have this opportunity to spend time together in discussion and prayer; and for everyone to get to know each other a little more from the different leadership teams.

At this time, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Pastor Eugene, Nikki, Kaden, Piper and Beau for their ministry amongst us during the past year and the time they have spent connecting with and supporting those in our congregation and community. It has been an incredibly challenging year for everyone, including Pastors, and Pastor Eugene has shown creativity, flexibility, adaptability, compassion and wisdom as he has served, encouraged and supported our congregation throughout the year.

During 2020, the members of the Pastoral Team have been actively involved in worship services conducted at our premises and have continued to be involved in other ministries and roles within the congregation, as we have been able, such as small groups, prayer ministry, visiting, bread ministry, Shed Men, Ladies' Breakfasts, LED and music ministry. The Pastoral Team also implemented a plan through which people in our worshipping community were regularly being connected to others during COVID, especially during the lock-down period. This was done primarily through phone calls and small groups, but also through other connection opportunities as they became available. My thanks go to all the members of the Pastoral Team for their continued ministry to our Congregation in this role. Your prayers, support and encouragement have been a true blessing to myself, one another and many others in our community.

A big thank you too to all the people who have supported Pastor Eugene, the Pastoral Assistants and others in our worshipping community throughout the year. Your faithful service is greatly appreciated by both the Pastoral Team and the wider congregation.

Finally, the Pastoral Team would like to thank all the members and friends of St John's Lutheran Tea Tree Gully for their continued prayers, support, encouragement and acts of service. During 2021, with the help of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to keep our focus on Jesus, as we work through the challenges before us, and with his support and insight may we find ways to actively explore together what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, through listening, learning, living and sharing Jesus' love and grace.

Tanya Dahlenburg, Leader of the Pastoral Team

Ministry Team

This year our Ministry Team consisted of:

Care and Share:	Vacant
Child and Family Ministry Coordinator:	Tanya Williams
Congregational Life Coordinator:	Vacant
Discipleship Coordinator:	Vacant
Mission Coordinator:	Selina Wilksch
Prayer Coordinators:	Lynne Schmidt and Charmaine Kerber
Worship Coordinators:	Anne Flynn and Jenny Kraft

The Ministry Team continued to meet during 2020, usually on the third Tuesday of the month.

The Ministry Team would like to thank the congregation for their prayers and support for the team throughout the year.

The team coordinators have provided their reports of the activities in their areas as follows:

Care and Share: Position vacant.

Although there has been no co-ordinator in the role this year, the care ministry has continued by way of provision emergency food parcels to those in need. This has been made possible by donations of food at the Thanksgiving service in February, as well as generous donations from members throughout the year. We thank Maire Sweeney and Anne Flynn for continuing to look after this area.

Child and Family:

It's been a blessing to see and hear about the relationships and connections that are forming between the generations. I would encourage you to continue to smile, acknowledge someone, learn a name, start a conversation or get involved in the lives of those younger or older than yourself.

This year L.E.D Youth (Light Emitting Disciples) has continued throughout the year thanks to the creative minds of Damien, Pastor Eugene and the help of volunteers. It has continued either in person or via zoom depending on the restrictions that were in place. It has been a consistent activity that the young people have been able to enjoy; connecting and growing together.

The fortnightly Wednesday afternoon Teen group has also been meeting in person or online regularly and has become two groups.

Throughout the year Cradle Roll has continued. Thanks to Lynette and her helpers, they have continued to acknowledge Baptisms and baptismal birthdays with a card and small gift for children in our community to the age of 4.

I thank those who have volunteered their time, stepped into mentoring roles, have opened up their homes or shared their Faith journey this year it has been very much appreciated.

Tanya Williams, Child and Family Coordinator

Congregation Life: No report, position vacant.

Discipleship: No report, position vacant.

Mission:

One of the unfortunate side-effects of this year's epidemic is the need for us to physically separate from each other. Perhaps as a result it's been all too easy to let our attention drift a little inwards, as we focus more on our own needs than those of the 'other' - people outside our comfort zone.

May I encourage you in this time of boundaries and borders, to actively remember and focus on others and their needs and problems too. Let's find creative ways to connect with our neighbours, workmates and the people whose paths we cross day to day.

This year our congregation has continued to contribute towards school fees and uniform costs for Elizabeth Aguta's niece, Adore Deng, in Kenya. Funds are raised from the monthly barbeques after church.

Thankfully, many other mission-flavoured activities in our church were able to resume as restrictions lifted. Shed Men has resumed, with meetings on the 1st Saturday of each month in a slightly different format in the church hall. Similarly, Open Door is being run again every Wednesday in the church hall for fellowship, fun and a game of cards.

Thanks to all who continue to support our recycling ministry. Cans and bottles can be brought to the church on the 1st Sunday of the month, and proceeds go to support local and overseas mission work.

And remember to check out what's available on our tract shelf when you need to give someone a note of encouragement.

Selina Wilksch, Mission Coordinator

Prayer:

A faithful group of 4 people have been meeting most Tuesday evenings from 7.30 – 9pm, praying for the concerns of our own people, the wider church and the world. We had a short break at the start of the COVID-19 restrictions. Since resuming we now meet in the Church Office. We would love to see more people join us, either as a regular or a one off for a specific prayer request. Members of the prayer team are also available if anyone wants prayer during or after services. It has been encouraging to see good participation in the various forms of prayers used in the services. This hopefully will encourage and enhance personal prayer.

Lynne Schmidt and Charmaine Kerber, Prayer Coordinators

Worship:

2019 ended with celebrations of Advent and Christmas, using 'The Advent Conspiracy' resource. The 5 weeks following Christmas were single service Sundays, with a mixture of formats offered. The usual 2 services resumed in February and included a Thanksgiving service.

Late in March with the onset of COVID-19 and government regulations, for the first time in our history Sunday worship services in the church building ceased. However, we were blessed to have a weekly video message provided by Pastor Eugene as well as a written message, discussion questions and worship notes to enable people to worship at home. This itself took on a variety of forms, either by individuals, families or in groups joining together online via Zoom or Skype. Resources were provided for all services over Easter. Enabling everyone to still share the journey of Jesus death and resurrection, even though not physically together.

In June as restrictions began to ease, short gatherings (max 20) commenced in the hall. These included readings, discussion, prayers and HC, and were held at multiple time slots. When permitted, size of gatherings increased, then moved back into the worship centre. While the 8.30am service resumed its former style, the 10am worship embraced some changes, including some of the practices begun during restrictions. These include more opportunity for people to volunteer to lead segments of worship and regular discussion time incorporated into the message.

A change to seating was also made with a number of pews removed and replaced by chairs to give a semi-circular layout and more flexibility.

As we near the end of year, preparations are underway for Advent and Christmas. However, we find ourselves unexpectedly facing another round of restrictions. While we are unsure of what the next few

weeks will bring, one thing we can be sure of is that we will continue to worship our Lord in some form. We have learnt to be adaptive and creative, and this will no doubt be reflected in how we share the Good News this Christmas.

Jesus is the same today and tomorrow regardless of our changing world so continue to trust in Him.

Anne Flynn and Jenny Kraft, Worship Coordinators

Pastor

This year has been challenging for all of us as individuals and as a community of faith because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Before the restrictions to try to slow the spread of the coronavirus came into effect in March, none of us would have ever thought it was possible for all the churches across Australia to be shut. Facing that reality for an indeterminate period of time challenged us to think about what it means to be church. How do we live out our identity as a community of faith when we aren't able to gather together in worship? How do we encourage each other when we can't meet face to face? Some might have even wondered if it was possible to be a church community without a building...

Two words I heard a lot when the restrictions started were 'unprecedented' and 'agile'. Our experiences this year have definitely been unprecedented and in order to negotiate our way through the challenges we have had to remain agile, ready to make constructive changes in short spaces of time.

Juke Mulder's return visit in February was a great help as we looked for way through these unprecedented times. After meeting with people from our congregation and then with leadership, Jake left us with three recommendations to guide our ministries into the future:

- Help adults to grow in our faith and take Jesus' message seriously in our lives.
- Equip parents to invest in the faith of our children.
- Create opportunities for people to connect in meaningful ways across generations.

As restrictions began and we looked for ways to remain a connected, growing, equipping and sending congregation in our new context, I kept these three recommendations in mind to discern how we could live them out for as long as the restrictions lasted.

One way was through worship. When the restrictions closed the doors of our church, suspending public worship and all congregational activities, our online worship intended to encourage people to actively worship together. We offered a simple home worship order, together with weekly Home Worship Helps and a video message posted to YouTube. A dedicated team of volunteer's hand delivered hard copies of these resources to people who did not have internet access so they could worship in their homes. We also started a Facebook page for the congregation to help communicate with and encourage people in our church. A phone network was also established to try to keep in contact with every person connected with St Johns and check in to see how everyone was doing.

When the restrictions started to be relaxed at the start of June, we began offering multiple worship services with Holy Communion in the hall in groups of up to twenty using a simple, spoken order. This increased to fifty a few weeks later, and when the numbers permitted to gather increased again at the end of June, the 8.30am service returned to the church building, with the 10am service moving back into the church a few weeks later.

Prior to the COVID-19 restrictions, conversations had begun about replacing the pews in the church. Some pews were coming apart, attempts to repair them were successful for only a short time, and the cost of professionally repairing them was very high. Moving worship back into the church from the hall gave us the opportunity to experiment with seating by removing about half of the pews and replacing them with seats from the hall. This change was generally received well and created a more communal feel to worship as people sat in a curved arrangement. At our delayed Annual General Meeting in September, approval was given to replace the pews with seats, which we hope will arrive before the end of the year.

In all the changes this year, my main hope has been to see St John's grow as a community of faith. Along with the virus itself, two of the greatest dangers people faced were to be isolated and afraid. God gifts us with communities of faith so we never have to feel alone or afraid. When we have sisters and brothers in Jesus around us, connecting with us, listening to us and speaking God's words of grace, peace, hope and joy into our lives, God gives us with what we need to stay positive and maintain our wellbeing in even the most challenging of circumstances. This year, when the normal ministries of the congregation were suspended,

we were still able to be the living, breathing body of Jesus for each other in our worship, our phone calls, our Zoom meetings, our casual conversations, and our prayers with and for each other. This year gave us the opportunity to explore and embody what a community of faith is all about – people walking with Jesus and each other in faith, hope and love, even when our buildings were closed and activities were suspended.

My sincere thanks go to everyone who has served in leadership on the Administrative Support Team, Pastoral Team and Ministry Team this year. Your willingness to embrace the challenges we were facing, to look for creative and constructive solutions, to try new things and to remain agile throughout this year have been invaluable in helping our congregation emerge from 2020 in a good place. My thanks also go to Sharon and Sue in the office for all of your work, to those who helped hand-deliver the worship resources to people who didn't have internet access during the restrictions, and to everyone who helped keep in touch with each other, especially the more vulnerable of our congregation.

This year has given us the opportunity to think about what it means to be church. It has reminded us that the church is not primarily a building or a constituted organisation. We are the church, the body of Christ, people who are united with God and each other through the Holy Spirit, the flesh-and-blood presence of Jesus in each other's lives, walking together, supporting each other, encouraging one another, as we live in faith, hope and love as Jesus' disciples. It has been an honour to see the body of Christ at work at St John's this year as God has guided us through this unprecedented pandemic.

As we continue to move into an unknown future, I pray that we will take what we have learned this year with us, making the most of the opportunities God gives us to grow as a community of faith.

Your servant in Christ and co-worker in his Kingdom,
Pastor Eugene Minge

Ladies Fellowship

St John's Lutheran Ladies Fellowship Tea Tree Gully on Monday 2nd December 2019 held their AGM, at the meeting it was agreed that they will go into recess. This came about due to declining numbers and no one able to take on Executive positions.

The finances were distributed between the Australia Lutheran Women, South Australian Lutheran Women's projects and St John's Lutheran Church Tea Tree Gully congregation.

The Ladies Fellowship wish to thank all ladies who have held Executive positions, all congregation members for the wonderful support provided over the years and they especially would thank our Pastors for their support and guidance especially with leading Bible Studies.

Anne Flynn, Secretary (Outgoing)

Mission Support 2020 & Proposed Support 2021

Operating Financial Summary as of October 2020				
	Actual YTD	Estimated	Approved	Proposed
		Total 2020	Support 2020	Support 2021
Income				
Mission Support Income				
Offerings	\$127,994	\$156,094	\$172,300	\$173,000
Rental and Hire Income	\$6,229	\$6,229	\$11,000	\$4,500
Other Mission Support Income				
Donations	\$3,057	\$3,057	\$500	\$500
Interest - Bank SA, REG, Other LLL	\$549	\$550	\$1,000	\$500
Fundraising - General	\$360	\$560	\$2,000	\$1,000
Jobkeeper	\$58,500	\$58,500		
State/Federal Grants	\$30,000	\$25,000		
Sundries		\$0	\$500	\$500
Total Other Mission Support Income	\$92,466	\$87,667	\$4,000	\$2,500
Total Mission Support Income	\$226,689	\$249,990	\$187,300	\$180,000
Total Income	\$226,689	\$249,990	\$187,300	\$180,000

	Actual YTD	Estimated	Approved	Proposed
		Total 2020	Support 2020	Support 2021
Expenses				
Salaries and Allowances				
Pastor	\$61,423	\$72,750	\$72,300	\$73,650
Office Manager (Actual incl. Jobkeeper)	\$27,738	\$32,400	\$24,550	\$25,350
Administrative Assistant (Actual incl. Jobkeeper)	\$21,997	\$23,300	\$7,600	\$7,700
Pastoral Relief	\$0	\$200	\$400	\$400
Superannuation Guarantee	\$9,109	\$10,800	\$10,800	\$11,250
LCA Payroll	\$606	\$720	\$750	\$750
WorkCover Levy	\$239	\$239	\$300	\$300
Total Salaries and Allowances	\$121,112	\$140,409	\$116,700	\$119,400
Ministry Team Expenses				
Child and Family Ministries	\$230	\$930	\$1,000	\$1,000
Congregational Life Ministries	\$0	\$100	\$50	\$50
Discipleship Ministries	\$0	\$0	\$50	\$50
Ministry Ministries	\$0	\$0	\$50	\$50
Mission Ministries	\$0	\$0	\$100	\$100
Prayer Ministries	\$0	\$0	\$50	\$50
Worship Ministries	\$263	\$388	\$500	\$500
Total Ministry Team Expenses	\$493	\$1,418	\$1,800	\$1,800
Mission Support Expenses				
Total Administration Expenses	\$1,549	\$2,045	\$2,520	\$2,500
General Operating Expenses				
Books, Publications Etc.	\$107	\$107	\$100	\$100
Christian Copyright	\$735	\$735	\$800	\$800
Cleaning Services & Materials	\$612	\$712	\$850	\$750
Computing/Internet	\$1,201	\$2,254	\$2,500	\$4,500
Convention/Synod Costs	\$0	\$0	\$600	\$1,000
Emergency Services Levy	\$422	\$422	\$500	\$500
Kitchen Supplies	\$100	\$200	\$350	\$350
Offering Envelopes		\$100	\$150	\$150
Telephone - Mobile/Manse	\$527	\$547	\$550	\$600
Total General Operating Expenses	\$3,704	\$5,077	\$6,400	\$8,750
Council Rates	\$3,293	\$4,390	\$4,370	\$4,500
Electricity	\$4,845	\$6,995	\$8,500	\$6,750
Gas	\$583	\$1,003	\$1,160	\$1,250
Insurances	\$10,631	\$10,631	\$10,300	\$10,900
Maintenance	\$2,190	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500
Water And Sewer Rates	\$3,248	\$3,248	\$3,500	\$3,500
LCA Levy	\$7,344	\$7,344	\$7,500	\$7,500
SA District Contributions	\$18,000	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000
LLL Loan - Kitchen	\$1,050	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$1,400
Sundries	\$480	\$780	\$400	\$500
Mission				
Aboriginal Ministry SA	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Lutheran Media Ministry	\$0	\$750	\$750	\$750
Schools Ministry TTG	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total Mission	\$0	\$2,750	\$2,750	\$2,750
Total Mission Support Expenses	\$56,917	\$75,163	\$78,300	\$79,800
Total Expenses	\$178,522	\$216,990	\$196,800	\$201,000
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$48,167	\$33,000	(\$9,500)	(\$21,000)

Non-Operating Income / Expense Summary as at October 2020	
Non-Operating Income	
Nett LLL Interest (Not transferred to operating)	\$387
Total Non-Operating Income	\$387
Non-Operating Expenses	
Kitchen Loan Interest	\$171
Mission – Amour Schooling	\$533
Fuller Youth Inst. Expenses 2020	\$1,796
Chinner St Evaluation 2020 expenses	\$6,118
Total Non-Operating Expenses	\$8,618

Balance Sheet 2020

St John's Lutheran Church TTG Inc. - Balance Sheet as of October 2020

St John's Lutheran Church TTG Inc. - Balance Sheet as of October 2020			
Assets			
Bank SA Account 40163840			\$23,569
LLL Accounts			
LLL A/C-12441 Youth Develop		\$9,124	
LLL A/C-23229 Playgroup		\$1,974	
LLL A/C-29738 Selah		\$1	
LLL A/C-31046 Maintenance		\$11,352	
LLL A/C-39095 Fundraising		\$889	
LLL A/C-39238 Capital Works		\$1,435	
LLL A/C-42692 Children & Family		\$5,130	
LLL A/C-50089 REG		\$38,598	
LLL A/C-82664 Building Redevelop		\$1,856	
LLL A/C-121791 Internal Saving			
Alpha	\$1,737		
Footsteps	\$344		
Open Door	\$3,427		
Shed Men	\$1,094		
Welfare	\$3,845	\$10,447	
LLL A/C-136407 Mission Fund		\$3,958	
Total LLL Accounts			\$84,764
Land and Buildings			
176 Hancock Rd S/School Rms		\$720,000	
178-180 Hancock Rd		\$575,000	
182 Hancock Rd		\$420,000	
184 Hancock Rd		\$245,000	
12 Chinner St		\$235,000	
14 Chinner St		\$245,000	
26 Claire St		\$435,000	
Carpark/Netball Upgrade		\$45,739	
26 Claire St Upgrade 2014-16		\$22,789	
Road Sign		\$2,713	
Church Roof 2016		\$24,040	
Steeple Repairs		\$1,960	
Roof Repairs Admin Centre 2017		\$1,800	
Air Conditioner Upgrade 2016		\$1,693	
Kitchen Upgrade Manse		\$18,570	
Total Land and Buildings			\$2,994,304
Equipment			
Church Equipment, Pews		\$206,594	
Hall Chairs		\$4,980	
Hall Painting 2015		\$3,068	
Lighting Upgrade 2015		\$415	
Rain Water Tanks 2017		\$4,403	
New Library 2017		\$431	
Air Con 14 Chinner		\$250	
Safety Ladder		\$587	
Purchase Tables 2020		\$526	
Purchase Tables 2020		(\$2,643)	
Kitchen Equipment		\$9,751	
Multi-Media System		\$11,979	
Office Equipment		\$16,222	

Selah Equipment		\$8,050		
Visual Aid Equipment		\$762		
Computer Network Upgrade 2015/16		\$6,640		
Total Equipment			\$272,015	
Total Assets				\$3,374,652
Liabilities				
LLL Manse Kitchen Loan			\$4,441	
Suspense Accounts				
Leaders/Ladies Retreat		\$260		
Study Books etc.		\$0		
Hall Hire Bond		\$250		
Youth Donations		\$862		
Ladies Fellowship Hold		\$800		
Chair Purchase 2020		\$3,200		
Total Suspense Accounts			\$5,372	
Net GST Owed			(\$2,933)	
Payroll Liabilities				
PAYG Withholding		\$746		
Provision Long Service Leave		\$2,239		
Total Payroll Liabilities			\$2,985	
Total Liabilities				\$9,865
Net Assets				\$3,364,787

Proposals

Proposals:

Revised Constitution

From the Admin Support Team:

Proposal:

Be it resolved that the revised Constitution dated 20th November 2020 be adopted by the congregation.

Financial Delegations Policy

From the Admin Support Team

Proposal:

Be it resolved that the Financial Delegations Policy dated 20th November 2020 be adopted by the congregation.

Additional Information

26 November 2020

Dear friends in St Johns,

I have another commitment on the 13th December and will not be able to be with you for the ABM. So rather than speaking about it, I am writing to you about my concerns regarding the proposed constitution. My issues relate to parts that were originally supplied to us by the SA-NT District as part of the 'model constitution for congregations', and not to the parts added locally. I will reference the numbering in the proposed constitution.

3.5 Lutheran pulpits for Lutheran pastors and Lutheran altars for Lutheran communicants

The question of who can commune at our services is guided by a document called 'Responsible Communion Practice', which is much more carefully expressed than this blunt, out-dated declaration that 'Lutheran altars are for Lutheran communicants only'. Secondly, this statement doesn't accurately reflect how we work with other denominations in places like Mawson Lakes, Wudinna and Coffin Bay.

Likewise, 2.6 says 'Lutheran pulpits for Lutheran pastors', yet there are many Lutheran pastors around the world I would not want preaching at our services. Again, it is not expressed very well. Back in 2011 I raised the issue with the SA-NT Pastors Conference and after discussing it at three conferences the pastors resolved to propose to General Synod that the wording be revised to read:

The congregation accepts the pastoral guidelines for responsible communion practice in the LCA. The pastor and congregation agree to seek the district president's [bishop's] approval for any proposal for the public proclamation of the Word in the divine service by others than those normally authorised to do so in the LCA.

However, General Synod ran out of time and so the proposal was referred to General Church Council for action. Apparently the 'powers that were' then simply let it die, so nothing changed. If I was at our meeting, and we decided we were prepared to run the risk of delaying the approval of our constitution, then I would move this amendment.

6.2 & 26 The use of Matthew 18:15-17 in church discipline

I have raised this before, and the words “and related passages” were added to 6.2. Section 26 was part of the old by-laws and has now strangely been included in the constitution. I say ‘strangely’ because the LCA’s intention is not to have by-laws, but to cover such matters in separate policy documents. We already have those policy documents under the Professional Standards Department and the ‘Safe Place’ material, which again strangely, is not referenced here.

In 6.2 the use of Matt 18 is at least modified by the reference to ‘related passages’ and the description of this as ‘principles’. There is no such finesse in 26. Here it is a ‘procedure’ laid down in Matt 18. There are ‘stages of discipline’ to be observed (boxes to be ticked). There is not even a hint that other passages should be considered. The point is well-taken that this biblical passage is about restoring the erring member, not kicking them out, however 6.2 says that it is about excommunication. It implies that this is the only way we should approach church discipline.

So what is wrong with that? If the two parties are adults who are equal in power and ability to deal with matters involving hurt and disagreements, it may be quite a good approach. However, even that is a pretty big ‘if’. What if it is a 15-year-old who has been sexually abused by an adult youth leader? Or a vulnerable adult who has been abused in some way by a pastor? To suggest that such a person needs to first go and confront their abuser by themselves, is simply a recipe for continuing the abuse. It also ignores the legal requirements for reporting abuse.

Even 6.2 gives prominence to Matt 18 over the many other passages in the Bible that talk about the duty of care and of love, protecting the vulnerable and doing justice etc. The way this is worded allows for the scenarios I have described, and while we have other policies that contradict this, it quite simply should not be in our constitutions, at least in this form. It allows someone to argue—even in a law court—that because they have not been approached by the individual on his or her own, it should not be escalated. Ridiculous, yes, but ‘law’ gets people looking for loopholes. We need to learn from the ‘institutional abuse’ royal commission, and be careful what is in our rules.

Section 26 is not needed, because it is already covered by much better policy and procedure documents, and 6.2 should be amended to delete the words “contained in Matthew 18:15-20 and related passages”. I would also change the word ‘excommunication’ to the more general ‘church discipline’. However, once again, I am not in the meeting and cannot move anything, and the congregation needs to decide if and how it wants to approach this.

Again, my apologies for not being able to be with you on the 13th December.

Steen Olsen

Elections

Nominations for positions to be elected/re-elected

Pastoral Assistants Team:

Nominations: Ruth Geer, Paul Verrall

Pastoral Assistants (continuing):
Adrian Dahlenburg
Tanya Dahlenburg
Michael Flynn
David Kraft

Ministry Team: **

Child and Family Ministry Coordinator: Tanya Williams
Congregational Life Coordinator: *Vacant*
Discipleship Coordinator: Dianne Kleinig
Ministry Coordinator: *Vacant*
Mission Coordinator: Selina Wilksch
Prayer Coordinators: Lynne Schmidt
Worship Coordinators: Anne Flynn and Jenny Kraft

**** Please note that the Coordinator titles will not be applicable if revised Constitution is adopted.**

Admin Support Team:

Chairperson: Carey Noack
Vice chair: Damien Nitschke
Finance Officer: Vacant
Secretary: Vacant

Auditor: Creative Auditing

Synod Delegates:

LCA National Synod Delegate 2021-2024:
Selina Wilksch

LCA SA/NT District Synod Delegates 2020-2022:
Carey Noack, Dave Biar, Jenny Kraft

Other Positions - as appointed (no voting required):

ChildSafe Coordinator: Damien Nitschke
Health and Safety Officer: Darren Williams