

LUTHERAN MEN OF AUSTRALIA

NEWSLETTER

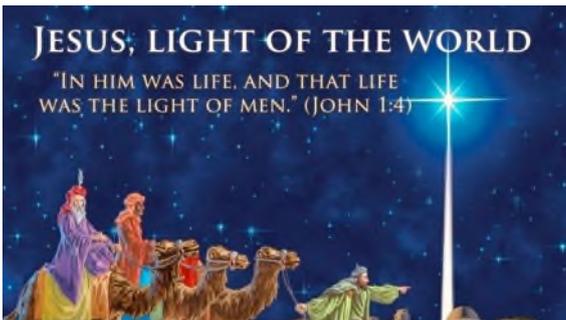
DECEMBER 2020 CHRISTMAS EDITION.



Lutheran Men's Newsletter is the official publication of the Lutheran Men of Australia and is published four times a year. The next publication will be in February 2021. Articles and men's related news and stories always welcome.

Check our Webpage: <https://www.lca.org.au/ministry-groups/mens-ministry/>

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An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You

will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:9-14 (NIV)

Editor's note.



Welcome to our Christmas edition of the LMA's newsletters.

As we celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ we know that it is the fore-runner to the most dynamic event in the history of humankind. That is, the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ taking on the sins of the whole world. What a wonderful free gift to get every Christmas. All we have to do is unwrap the gift

i.e. accept it, believe it and get to know Jesus not just know about Him. We thank God for this wonderful gift.

We would like to thank everyone working in the LCA for their dedication and extra hard yard they have put in during this past difficult year.

I personally would like to thank those who have sent encouraging emails and comments since I have taken on the position of editor of the LMA newsletter. It was quite daunting at the beginning especially for a retired farmer but God has given me the computer skills I have and has helped me all the way.

I would also like to thank everyone who contributes articles for each edition especially our spiritual adviser, Pastor David Kuss, Con Schlenk and Tim Fischer from Trans World Radio and Pastor Richard Fox from Lutheran Media, Bishop John Henderson, David Pfeiffer, president of the LMA, Colin Schutz, president of SA LMA and Trevor Geer, president of Victoria LMA. Without their effort there wouldn't be a newsletter.

I pray that God grants you all a blessed Christmas and a happy new year.
Keith Munchenberg.

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Lutheran Men of Australia President's Christmas Message



[Robin Mann -presented the series of All Together books, Roland Adams, James Luk, Stephen Noblett, Joseph Theodorsen, Christopher Johnson, Phil Bentley, 2nd year student Joel Savage, LMA President David Pfeiffer]

As we enter the last weeks of year 2020 and remember the major events of this year and the aftermath of these, we pause to see the hand of God guiding and protecting His people.

Our congregations and fellowships were meeting face to face in relatively stable numbers before COVID-19. With the use of electronic technology many more people have been tuning into live streaming, radio and TV to view worship services. We thank God for this avenue given to us to share the life-giving Gospel to so many people.

I was able to attend a recent Chapel Service at Australian Lutheran College where our project support for these new pastors was given to them. The LMA is grateful for the generous

support of many people in kindly donating old batteries (over 7.5 tonnes) for sale to help finance our projects (over \$4700 in sales). Thankyou



[The LCA/NZ welcomed five new pastors to its ranks on Sunday 6 December. LCA/NZ Bishop John Henderson, centre, ordained (from left) Roland Adams, Philip Bentley and Christopher Johnson, along with Stephen Noblett (second from right) and Joseph Theodorsen (far right). Bishop Henderson also confirmed the transition of Pastor James Luk, third from right, from Specific Ministry Pastor to General Ministry Pastor.]

My wife, Faye, and I have just tuned into the live streaming of the Ordination of the six candidates into the ministry of the LCA. Please pray for these new Pastors and all of our Pastors and elected leaders as they preach and teach the Word in the communities where they will, and are, serving.

As we focus our worship through Advent and our themes so far of 'Hope' and 'Peace', I encourage you with these words from Romans 15:13 : 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.' I pray that our Loving Lord will guide, bless and walk with all of us in the coming year and give us the faith and courage to live as his people in our communities.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Newsletter this year and to Keith for his great effort as Editor.

Faye and I pray you will have a blessed Christmas as we together worship the Christ Child. May the Prince of Peace walk with you now and through 2021.

David Pfeiffer LMA President

Christmas Greetings from Victorian LMA President.



As we come to the end of what has been a very unusual year we look forward to next year and being able to meet and enjoy the fellowship and blessings of our Lutheran Men's groups again.

The LMV Committee are in the throes of organising our Retreat for 2021 at Tandara Halls Gap which will be on the weekend of the 12th to the 14th of March, please keep that in mind and put that date into your diary. You might like to invite a friend to come along as well. We also intend to hold our "Men Led by God" camp in August which we will have more detail on a bit later.

I would like to thank Keith on behalf of the Lutheran Men of Victoria for his work in producing this magazine. A fine production and always full of interesting articles. Thank you Keith

I would like to wish everyone a blessed Christmas and an improved 2021.

Trevor Geer
President Lutheran Men Victoria

Christmas Greetings from SA LMA President



Dear friends in Jesus.

What a year it has been with fires, floods, storms and lock-downs. Who do we turn to? Yes, Jesus is the only One who helps us through difficult times.

God sent His only dearly beloved Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit, to a virgin, Mary and then born in a humble stable. Angels appeared to Joseph to be the husband of Mary and they were to name this child Jesus, because He will save all people who believe in Him, from their sins and to bring peace on earth and good will to all people.

So that's why we want to worship Him, in gratitude for His great Gift to each of us.

If all that didn't happen, there would be no Christmas and no hope of eternal life for us.

Let us all thank God for His many blessings and helping us through all difficulties and for always being there for us.

May God bless you all this Christmas Season and also in the New Year.

Yours in Christ,
Colin Schutz

LUTHERAN MEDIA Christmas Message

Praying that you have a safe and blessed Christmas. Thank you for your invaluable support! Because of your support, thousands of people are responding to the messages of hope.

Here is what is on **Messages of Hope** in December:



What to Buy?

The build up to Christmas can be really stressful and tiring. Even more so in this year of the pandemic. And buying and sending gifts may feel even more important to remind friends and family that you are still connected. Personally, I struggle with buying gifts and trying to find the perfect gift for the special people in my life. Join me, Richard Fox, as I share more about trying to find the perfect gift.



Stress

Do you ever feel stressed, trying to meet everyone's expectations, as well as your own? Join Noel Due, Celia and Richard as they talk about stress and the key reason why it can be so destructive.



Christmas is for everyone

In Australia today we need to know that the love of God doesn't change if the world around us changes. The story of Jesus birth at Christmas is as relevant today as it has been throughout history. It goes beyond cultures, religions and political ideologies. Bishop John Henderson will show how the story of Christmas is for all people, because it's a story of God's love for the whole world.



Story of the Carols

Christmas time is so well known for its carols but why do we actually sing Christmas carols? Join Richard and Celia as they discuss some of their favorite carols and share the memories they bring. What are your favorite carols?

Listen to Messages of Hope on the radio (go to www.messagesofhope.org.au for a list of current radio stations), iTunes, Spotify, Facebook, Twitter and online at www.messagesofhope.org.au or contact us for a monthly CD of the messages.



Messages of Hope Christmas Cards

We have put together a pack of 5 Christmas cards with a Christmas verse and Christian message inside. At \$5 a pack (\$1 per card!) you can give one to all your family and friends.

They are available to order from www.lutheranmedia.org.au or call us on 1800 353 350. You may want to order some for next year?



Happyland Advent Calendar

Count up to Christmas by clicking on a star on the www.happyland.com.au/advent calendar. There are activities, videos and the Christmas story to enjoy.

Lutheran Media Scripture Calendar



Order your inspiring 2021 wall calendar. Thanks to the many entrants to the photo competition, the 2021 calendar is full of amazing entered photos. Order your calendar for yourself or to give as a gift at www.lutheranmedia.org.au/calendar or call us on 1800 353 350.

75th Anniversary Celebration Service

Thanks to your support, you have been sharing the good news of Jesus Christ through Lutheran Media for 75 years.

Watch the celebration worship service from the 15th November at St Michael's on Live Stream at www.lutheranmedia.org.au/luthworship or contact us for a free DVD of the worship service.

Trans World Radio



While the restrictions of Covid have, this year, delayed the training of pairs of selected teacher trainers from half of the 24 provinces in Cambodia, we are looking forward to completing their training in February and then starting the first of the five two-day seminars for the remaining provinces by the end of 2021. Already the eagerness of these trained teachers is inspiring many of the local Sunday School teachers back in the provinces and many of them are wanting to do the training themselves. In some provinces this zeal is truly overwhelming. Post-card-sized wall cards are proving immensely popular too with 150,000 distributed so far. The excellent artwork and attached Bible verse make them a very attractive item and are much sought after. We would like to print thousands more.

Lutheran Men have generously supported this work in Cambodia in the past and there is so much evidence that investments like this are having lasting and far reaching benefits on the spreading of the message of salvation through Christ. Thank you for your support. I can guarantee that it is used wisely, carefully and with maximum effect and I look forward to our continuing to work together in this exciting mission field.

Tim Fischer

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Matthew 22:37



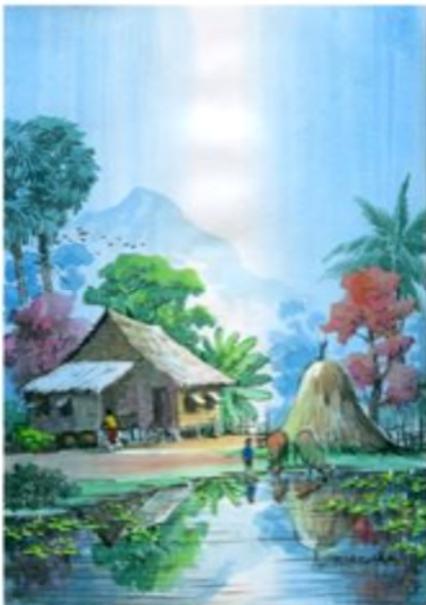
The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want. Psalm 23:1



I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6



God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Jesus Christ. Philippians 4:19



May your Christmas be filled with His blessing to you and those around you whom you serve.

Tim