LCA/NZ PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS Reflecting God's Love

# KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

If you think a child is at risk of harm ...

- In an emergency, call 000 (Australia) or 111 (New Zealand).
- If it is not an emergency, call your local police and child protection authority.









We all love The Lutheran. But it comes to you only once a month.

In the meantime a lot is happening around your church. Keep up with the latest news and updates.

Join 4000 fellow Lutherans who are receiving LCA eNews in their inbox every fortnight.

It's free, and you can unsubscribe at any time.

Sign up at www.lca.org.au/enews



Hope

We rejoice in the **hope** of the glory of God

Romans 5:1-3

Contact us:

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The Good Shepherd; Reflecting on John 10: 11-18

## Scripture:

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me

-just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

YEAR B

Jesus is the vine we are his branches





www.growministries.org.au



Share your highs and lows, or respond to the following:

- 1. What is your favourite fruit? Why?
- Jesus says that we show that we are his followers by producing fruit. What do you think Jesus means by 'fruit'?
- Jesus tells us that if we are to produce fruit, we need to remain with him. Other translations use the word 'stay' or 'abide'. What do these words mean for you?



#### BIBLE READINGS

Read the following Bible readings throughout this week. Talk about what words or phrases stand out for you.

S	John 15:1-8	Jesus the true vine
М	Acts 8:26-40	Philip and the eunuch
т	1 John 4:7-21	God is love
W	Deuteronomy 10:12-19	What the Lord wants
Т	Mark 12:28-34	The first commandment
F	Galatians 3:23-29	Purpose of the law
S	Psalm 22:25-31	A vow of thanksgiving

### VERSE OF THE WEEK

I am the vine, and you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

YEAR B

The risen Jesus sends us out to witness.





www.growministries.org.au



Share your highs and lows, or respond to the following:

- Share your ideas about the word trust. What does it mean? Is it important? Who is someone you trust? Who do you listen to?
- Jesus calls himself our Good Shepherd. What does this mean? What does it mean for you?
- How do we listen to Jesus' voice? How can we grow to know him better?



#### BIBLE READINGS

Read the following Bible readings throughout this week. Talk about what words or phrases stand out for you.

S	John 10:11-18	The Good Shepherd
М	Acts 4:5-12	Peter and John before the council
T	1 John 3:16-24	Love one another
W	Genesis 48:8-21	God has been my shepherd
Т	Ezekiel 34:11-24	God will look after God's sheep
F	Mark 6:30-34	Jesus, the compassionate shepherd
S	Psalm 23	The divine shepherd

#### VERSE OF THE WEEK

"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep."

JOHN 10:14-15



## Reflection:

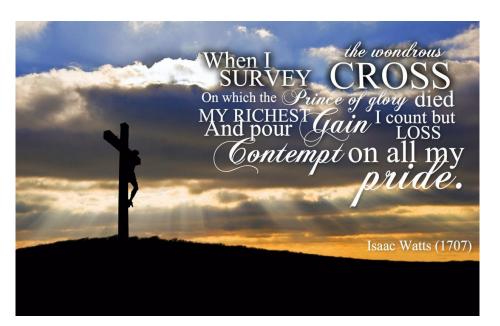
In John 10:11-18, Jesus revealed himself as a good shepherd who knows his own flock and is a sacrifice for them. As we are called to serve our communities and or our parishes, we must never forget how a good shepherd severed his flock. It is through self-sacrifice of our time and talent, patient and understanding for other regardless of their religious belief. As a common phrase for Catholic, "God doesn't call the qualified, but He qualifies the called". God knows us and He calls us by name.

As we are looking at different saints or clergy to learn from them, others look at us and learn from us. And as our struggles become real even as others turn to us for guidance, we also have a shepherd to turn to for help. Most of us sometimes forget this, but we are leaders in our own way.

The church of tomorrow depends on how we set the foundation for the church of today. There will be crisis and there will be need, but there will always be good people standing behind us.

I was reminded of Saint Teresa of Calcutta and her work of the Missionaries of Charity when I read this gospel. She founded this order serve people who are struggling with their lives and suffer from various diseases. During her lifetime, she ministered to the poor, sick, orphaned, and dying, and she did not discriminated against anyone because of their religious backgrounds. I'm sure there are moments when she struggled. She too turned to her own shepherd for guidance and help.

We are all called to serve, just like Saint Teresa of Calcutta, just like Jesus. It is normal for others to turn to you for help and for to you feel overwhelm, but never forget that you always have a good shepherd that you can turn to when you feel lost and doubt.



When it comes to Christian hymns, few have stood the test of time like "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross." This powerful song, composed by Isaac Watts, has been captivating audiences for over three centuries. Its message touches the hearts of believers, reminding them of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and the redemption found in His death on the cross.

The central theme of "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" revolves around the power and significance of the cross. It delves into the depth of God's love, the cost of Christ's sacrifice, and the transformative effect it has on the lives of believers.

The lyrics perfectly encapsulate this idea, as they lead us on a journey of reflection and introspection. Isaac Watts masterfully describes the cross as a wondrous symbol, drawing our attention and inviting us to meditate upon its meaning. The song challenges us to consider our own response to the cross, acknowledging the immense gift of salvation through Christ's death.

Another crucial aspect of "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" is its call to surrender. The hymn compels believers to lay down their own desires and submit to the will of God. Through the lyrics, Isaac Watts emphasizes the



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

YEAR B

The risen Jesus sends us out to witness.





www.growministries.org.au



#### CONVERSATIONS

Share your highs and lows, or respond to the following:

- Tell about an amazing event you saw or heard about.
- Who first told you about Jesus? Who and what has helped you learn about him?
- Jesus said that his disciples would be "witnesses" for him (Luke 24:48). What is a witness? In what ways are you a witness for Jesus to others?



#### BIBLE READINGS

Read the following Bible readings throughout this week. Talk about what words or phrases stand out for you.

S	Luke 24:36b-48	Jesus appears to his disciples
М	Acts 3:12-19	Peter speaks in the temple
т	1 John 3:1-7	Children of God
W	Acts 1:1-11	You will be my witnesses
т	Acts 10:34-43	The witness of the apostles
F	Isaiah 35:3-9	God changes everything
s	Psalm 4	An evening prayer

#### VERSE OF THE WEEK

The Messiah Will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins Will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are Witnesses of these things.

LUKE 24:46-48





SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

YEAR B

The risen Jesus gives us peace.



www.growministries.org.au



Share your highs and lows, or respond to the following:

- How do you generally feel each morning?
   With more peace? Or more worry?
- When Jesus appeared to his disciples he said 'peace be with you'. What did that mean? What does it mean for you?
- 3. How does the resurrection make a difference in your life?



#### BIBLE READINGS

Read the following Bible readings throughout this week. Talk about what words or phrases stand out for you.

S	John 20:19-31	Jesus appears to the disciples
М	Acts 4:32-35	The sharing of goods
т	1 John 1:1-2:2	The word of life
W	John 14:23-31	Jesus speaks of peace
т	Romans 5:1-11	We have peace with God
F	Philippians 4:4-9	The God of peace be with you
s	Psalm 133	The blessing of unity

### VERSE OF THE WEEK

Jesus sald to them again, "Peace be With you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." JOHN 20:21

importance of self-denial and embracing the cross as the ultimate example of love and sacrifice.

As we sing along and reflect on the words, the hymn prompts us to examine our lives and discard anything that hinders our relationship with God. It encourages us to fully surrender to Him, acknowledging Him as Lord and offering our lives as a living sacrifice.

One of the most poignant elements of "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" is its portrayal of God's redeeming love. The hymn illustrates the depth of His affection by highlighting the tremendous price paid through Christ's death. It reminds us that through the cross, God's unconditional love was fully demonstrated, guaranteeing forgiveness and salvation for all who believe.

As we sing these lyrics, our hearts are stirred with gratitude and awe. We are reminded of the immeasurable love Christ displayed for humanity, willingly laying down His life to save us from our sins. This powerful message of redemption resonates with believers around the world, leading them to bow before the cross in worship and adoration. May this hymn continue to inspire and transform lives for generations to come.

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died, My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ my God! All the vain things that charm me most,

I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,

Sorrow and love flow mingled down! Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,

That were an offering far too small; Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.



# THE GOSPEL THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE 20:31

After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you.' Then he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.' (verses 20-23)

There have been times in my life when I have agonised over the point of being involved in the Christian church. What, if anything, makes Christianity unique? What has the Christian community to offer anyone that they cannot find anywhere else? What on earth are we Christians doing that is any good at all?

the most memorable worship imaginable. Let's set up a counselling service. Let's organise people into fellowship groups, arrange outings for them. Let's care for the homeless, the aged, the sick. And on and on.

All of these activities are important. But in themselves they are like the disciples being intrigued by the holes in Jesus' hands, feet and side. The focus is on the wrong place.

"... for the forgiveness of sins." This is the point to which Jesus redirects the disciples' attention. This is what it is all about. This is what we Chris-So, I search around. Let's give people tians have and give that no-one else in the whole wide world has or can give: forgiveness of sins in the name of Jesus. There is nothing greater.

> Breathe on me each moment, Lord Jesus, the most precious gift of all your forgiveness of me. Amen. Bob Kempe, in 'New Strength for each Day' (LCA, Openbook

WAY FORWARD HOME PAGE: www.lca.org.au/wayforward

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: www.lca.org.au/wayforward/questions

> GENERAL FEEDBACK: wayforward2024@lca.org.au



## RESOURCES

The Way Forward team has been hard at work producing new church bulletin inserts, PowerPoint slides for your church service announcements, and more. You can find them on our Resources page www.lca.org.au/wayforward/resources/#promotions Please ask your pastor or chairperson to use these resources to keep your members informed, and don't forget to share the Resources link with others in your community.

#### WORKING GROUPS

A number of you have requested the terms of reference for the eight Way Forward working groups. We have added the terms of reference to the website, and you can find them at www.lca.org.au/wayforward/#wg-tor

#### TALK ABOUT IT

We want every member of the church to know what is happening so they can consider the options and contribute to the Way Forward. Please share the webinar recording with your congregations and communities. Synod delegates, in your responsible role, we are looking to you especially to engage your parish members in this conversation. We've prepared some talking points to help get the conversations started, and we welcome your congregation's feedback on the three frameworks via the frameworks webpages.

www.lca.org.au/wayforward/resources/#talking-points

#### DON'T FORGET TO PRAY

You are encouraged to pray for the unity of our church, during congregational worship, in your family and private devotion time, and whenever you meet with each other about the Way Forward project. For petitions especially written for this time in our church's life: https://yourlca.com/wf-prayer-petitions

#### WHAT'S NEXT?

The three shortlisted frameworks are being further enhanced to meet the requirements of the General Synod resolution, After Easter, there will be a move from three frameworks to one preferred option.



## WAY FORWARD MAIOR MILESTONES

#### MARCH 2023

#### Make appointments:

The project management team and eight working groups were appointed. The working groups are comprised of people from across the church who are experts in their respective subject areas.

#### JUNE 2023

#### Call for models/frameworks:

The entire church was invited to submit models for the Way Forward that aligned with the intent of the General Synod resolution.

#### JULY-SEPTEMBER 2023

Evaluate frameworks: During this phase, the frameworks were evaluated and shortfisted for further consideration and development.

#### OCTOBER 2023-**IULY 2024**

#### Enhance frameworks:

The shortlisted frameworks are being further enhanced to meet the requirements of the General Synod resolution.

#### AFTER EASTER 2024

Move from three frameworks to one preferred option.

#### AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2024

#### Preparation and prayer:

There will be opportunities for the wider church to prayerfully prepare for the proposal to go before General Synod.

#### OCTOBER 2024

#### General Pastors Conference and General Synod:

General Pastors Conference will review the proposal, which Synod delegates will debate and vote on.



# **EIGHT MONTHS TO GO!**

# ordination way forward

one church, two practices

In October 2024, General Synod delegates will be voting on a proposal to allow for the LCANZ to function as 'one church with two different practices of ordination'. This move was resolved by General Synod in February 2023, which instructed the General Church Board and the College of Bishops to 'work through the theological, constitutional, and governance requirements' for such a move. The resulting project, known as the Way Forward, began in March 2023.

The General Church Board and College of Bishops are the steering committee for the Way Forward project. Overseeing the deliverables and day-to-day operations and reporting to the steering committee is the project management team of Stella Thredgold (part-time), Tim Niewand (full-time) and Tony Vong (part-time). Supporting them is a three-member reference team and eight working groups comprising exparts in their respective fields.

The entire church was invited to submit models for the Way Forward that aligned with the intent of the General Synod resolution. The more than 60 framework proposals and further general responses received underwent an extensive evaluation process and three frameworks were shortlisted for further consideration and development. These are: Confessional Communities, Congregations Decide and District Allonment.

You can learn more about the project by listening to the What is the Way Forward? Podcast at www.lca.org.au/what-is-the-way-forward

Ask your pastor, congregation chair or General Synod delegate for more information about the frameworks and for ways to get involved.

#### IOIN THE CONVERSATION...

www.lca.org.au/wayforward

Sign up to Way Forward eNews www.lca.org.au/wf-signmeup



Submit your feedback on the three shortlisted frameworks by Tuesday 13 February 2024.

You can comment via the online form on each of the framework pages below or by email to wayforward 2024@lca.org.au

- Framework: Confessional Communities www.lca.org.au/wayforward/framework-cc
- Framework: Congregations Decide www.lca.org.au/wayforward/framework-cd
- Framework: District Alignment www.lca.org.au/wayforward/framework-da

or you can add your comments via the survey link below. Meanwhile, we are reading and answering every question and comment about the three frameworks or forwarding them to the working groups for consideration. Your input is guiding us towards the preferred framework, which will be submitted as a proposal to this year's General Synod.

If you need a recap on the three frameworks, you might want to watch the webinar.

www.lca.org.au/wayforward/resources/#webinar

# WHAT ARE YOU THINKING? HOW ARE YOU FEELING?



We'd like to know what you are thinking and how you are feeling about the Way Forward; in particular the three frameworks.

Please let us know, by taking the short survey. It's anonymous (unless you choose to tell us your name.)

> www.lca.org.au/ wayforward/ resources/#survey

## **Lest We Forget – A prayer for Anzac Day**



Risen Lord and King, Jesus Christ, you laid down your life so that we might live. We remember those who died serving in the armed forces of our nation. Preserve our nation in peace, and in times of war give your people strength and courage to defend the cause of justice even if it may cost us our lives. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Other prayer points

- World leaders who have difficult decisions to make regarding national defence and the deployment of service men and women.
- Peace in countries afflicted by war both in places well-known and places often forgotten.
- Members of the Defence Forces of New Zealand and of Australia
- Families of Defence Force women and men.
- · Comfort to those who mourn.
- All who continue to suffer because of war.
- People who provide medical and other health support for victims of war.
- Defence Force Chaplains and other pastoral care workers in the Armed Services.
- Aid organisations which provide support for those suffering various kinds of loss on account of war.
- The people of the church, to continue with prayerful service to the world, pursuing peace in the Lord's name.



# CHURCH QUEENSLAND New Life For Heritage Building

A new Neighbourhood Centre will open later this year in Nanango, thanks to a partnership between South Burnett CTC and Heritage Nanango Community Funding (HNCF). The centre will be located in the old Immanuel Lutheran Church building at 41 Drayton Street.

The building was bought recently by Heritage Nanango Community Funding for community use and has been leased to CTC.

CTC CEO Jason Erbacher said the Neighbourhood Centre was expected to open in May.

Residents would then have access to a wide range of CTC services and programs, covering everything from family services to homelessness support.

"The launch of the Nanango Neighbourhood Centre underscores our commitment to ensuring all members of our community have access to vital community services and support," Jason said.

CTC also hoped to gain funding to introduce specialised programs to cater for the unique needs of local youth and the elderly.

The Neighbourhood Centre will aim to foster community connections as well as acting as a hub for outreach services.

Jason said it would be complementing – and not competing – with the existing volunteer-run Nanango Community Centre, which runs programs at the old Scout Den. He said the location was perfect and would mean CTC could now better serve the second largest population centre in the South Burnett by offering a "safe space".

HNCF chair Jane Hodgkinson said it was an exciting project.

"We know this is a sad day for the Lutheran Church congregation but we hope we can honour the church's good works, we love that the historic old Station Master's building will continue to be an asset for the community, after being lovingly cared for by the local Lutheran congregation for so many years"

"The original vision of the Heritage Community Branch was to make a difference in Nanango, and this project did just that. We are delighted to collaborate again with South Burnett CTC to realise this vision, which we are confident will have a positive impact on future generations."

# **Who What How When**



QUT Gardens Point Campus in the heart of Brisbane is a long way from Kyiv, where children continue to suffer from on-going conflict.

But on Saturday 11 May, Queenslanders can show the people of Ukraine they have not been forgotten, as we **Walk My Way** for children who had to run away from war.

ALWS Walk My Way Ukraine will help Ukrainian children who have reached safety in Poland to receive shelter, trauma-counselling and support to go to school.

Meanwhile, inside Ukraine - in cities like Kharkiv, Odessa and Kyiv - we can help build bomb shelters under schools, renovate apartments to protect grandparents left behind as they face bombs and bitter cold, and restore water, electricity and sewage connections.



The first ever **Walk My Way Ukraine** offers two distances – 12.5km along the Brisbane River, through beautiful Southbank, or 3km for those who may be less mobile.

Both Walks return to the Walk My Way hub at QUT where walkers, supporters and visitors are welcomed with Ukrainian food and cultural activities.

All ages are welcome – especially families. It's a special way to show children and grandchildren who may feel worried and helpless by the world's troubles, that we all have the power to help people in need, even if they are far away in a place like Ukraine.

If you can't make it to the ALWS Walk My Way, you can sponsor a Walker, or simply make a donation to help a child of Ukraine who had to run away.

Saturday 11 May, 1 – 5pm

QUT Gardens Point Campus, Brisbane City
walkmywayukraine.org.au \* 1300 763 407









# **Who What How When**



Christian Life Week (CLW) is a five day camp for high school aged students that is centred on an unforgettable experience of faith, friendship and fun. CLW is a chance for teenagers to escape the everyday, have a stack of good clean fun and discover more about what it means to be a Christian.

Registrations are open 1 April - 9 June 2024.

Date: 1-5 July 2024

Time: 10:30 am Monday—12 pm Friday

Age: Grades 7—12

**Location: Luther Heights Youth Camp** 

**Financial Support:** Financial support is available if you are unable to afford to pay the full cost of camp. Please see the Treasurer Kay Strow for further information.

# **Who What How When**





## Have Church? Will Travel! - Narelle Kleinschmidt

Recently, eleven members of St Pauls Beaudesert visited a member who has been unable to attend services because of mobility issues.

We planned the day for Ash Wednesday, so that we could have a full Ash Wednesday service complete with ashes on our foreheads, and also communion. The service was lead by one of our elders. The day was appreciated by all, not just our member for whom the day was organised. This service was followed by a bring and share lunch. After Easter, we plan to again take a service to this member. The church even bought a keyboard so that we could have music.

If the members can't come to church, then church will go to the members!

# **Who What How When**



St Johns Corinda
Church Council 2024

Chairperson	Tom Brandt
	Marie Pawsey
Vice Chairperson	Ben Harms
Secretary	Jasmyn Cridland
Treasurer	Kay Strow
Vice Treasurer	David Heinemann
Safe Place Coordinator	Wendy Dann
Property Warden	Nicholas Wamp
Worship team Coordinator	Vacant
Ministry Team Coordinator	Vacant
Sunday School Coordinator	Wendy Smith
Elders	Lance Upson, Fay Teis

# **Who What How When**



Trading Table & Cakeless

Cake Stall— 21 April 2024

All proceeds to Mary and

Martha's Christmas Gift

Appeal

bake	· ·	And feel quite sure you'll understand So into this box please put the price Of a pie, or a cake, or something nice.
the cost Of material, he Baking for a sta Yet nobody rea	sed if you counted at and time lost all is extra work ally wishes to shirk that of a plan that's	Without fuss of bother you've done your part We're sure you'll give with a will- ing heart The clients of Mary and Martha's will all cheer On receiving gifts as Christmas comes near

Donations will be accepted for Cakeless Cake Stall. Other items offered on the day will be—craft items, jewellery, honey & potted plants.

Thanks go to the donors of the items for sale and to you for supporting the Mary & Martha's Christmas gift appeal.