

Life in the Vine

June 2018

Volume 24, Issue 2

"HOPE IS LOST
when *We* lose
our connection
WITH GOD"

"Connected to God
Making Connections
With Each Other"

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39

"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves." Romans 12:10

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together,..... but encouraging one another.." Hebrews 10:24-25



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GGLC YouTube

Pastor Dennis Shares

by Dennis Obst



Connecting

The search for community

“With whom do I belong?” This is a fundamental question for us human beings. Without being consciously aware of it, we are born with this question, this desire and longing. We long to belong!

We also discover who we are in the context of community. It is in relating to others that we develop our own sense of individuality. In connecting with others we grow a sense of our own identity. We understand better who we are when in the company of those to whom we belong.

Scripture begins with God’s recognition that we should not be alone. We’re made for relationships, with God and each other.

While we are often connected in a variety of communities such as family, work, neighbourhood, sport, leisure, congregation, there is an ‘aleness’ epidemic in our society today. People are also discovering that social media – facebook etc. – does not satisfy this longing. There is a superficiality about so much ‘connecting’ that leaves people ‘disconnected’. The consequences of this disconnectedness can be very sad.

In an ego driven society, it is also a challenge to be connected. Community does not prosper among people who are self oriented and self focused. If it’s all about me, where’s the room for others?

It is also tempting to limit the ‘others’ to those in our immediate circle such as family and friends. But what about the stranger! Where does the stranger feature? It is not uncommon for a stranger to feel just like a stranger in a gathering of people, even in the midst of people gathered for worship.

Jesus says that in welcoming strangers we are in fact welcoming Him. The writer to the Hebrews says “**Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.**”

The church is not the only place where people can discover a place for belonging. True, we may include another dimension to belonging, but we’d better be sure to practise the basics of **welcoming**....being open and hospitable, inclusive and engaging, gracious and loving.

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.
– Hebrews 13:1-2

Not To Be Missed
‘The 2nd Education Saturday’
On Saturday 21st July
held at Golden Grove Lutheran Church.
Come to grow and enrich your faith, hear from God’s word and enjoy the fellowship of others.
More details to come
Speak to Ruth Zimmermann if you would like learn more about this amazing day.

Stay Connected 

God has no phone,
but I talk to Him

He doesn't have Facebook,
but He is still my friend

He doesn't have Snapchat,
but He knows my story

He doesn't have Instagram,
but I still follow Him

The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me.
John 10:27

From the Editor

Welcome to this edition of Life in the Vine.

Graeme and I have recently returned from a trip to Darwin. It became very clear to us that among the aboriginal people of Kakadu that connections are very important, not just with each other, but also to the land, the animals, the seasons, and their stories. Here at Golden Grove we also need to have strong connections to remain strong and growing. The most important connection we need to have is to our loving God who created us. He loves us so much that He has called us his precious children, each by name. His love sent Jesus to the cross to die and rise again for each of us, so that we each can have eternal life and forgiveness for all eternity. The connections we make within our school and church will not just happen. We need to work hard at getting to know each other, caring, loving and supporting one another, not just with words but also in action. This is where I believe that this magazine Life in the Vine is so important. It aims to not only connect us with God's word, but also to connect us to each other through personal stories. It shows what is happening through the many groups and activities that are occurring in both the school, church, wider community and the Lutheran church. May this magazine challenge you to step out of your comfort zone, make new connections with those you may not know so well, strengthen the connections you have and build and grow your connection with God through worship, prayer and study.

Rosalie Hoklas – Editor contact email: hoklas@internode.on.net



LCA SA-NT District Convention of Synod

*held Fri 4th to Sun 6th May 2018
@ Tatchilla Lutheran School
by Rosalie Hoklas*

The theme for the 48th Synod was "Hearts Burning." The Bible passage Luke 24:13 –35 was the focus for the worship, the devotions and the personal reflection time.

This is the first time that I have been a delegate to represent a congregation at a district convention. When I was asked and said yes I had no idea to what I really was saying yes to. Now that I have attended I am thankful to both God and the congregation for giving me this opportunity to gain an insight into what happens in our larger church family and the way God is working in so many ways through so many people. We often feel that the church is inactive or perhaps dying but I know that is not happening. We are a growing and vibrant church in so many areas. I believe every member should have the opportunity to attend a synod. Yes there is much business to attend to, proposals to make decisions

on, finance reports to understand and the election of members for many committees and councils but there are also very interesting reports from the many agencies of the church and the amazing ways that God is working in and through them. But best of all, is the opportunity to worship and glorify our loving and merciful God who has chosen us to be his precious children – who loves us to death (Jesus death on the cross and His resurrection for our forgiveness, making us right before God) with so many others. Then to round it off we have this wonderful opportunity for fellowship with friends and fellow Christians during the breaks with a cuppa and beautiful food.

A full report is available on GGLC website and hard copies are available from the Church office or in the GGLC Worship Centre.

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive" (Colossians 3:12-13).

Highlights from Church Council

Jon Schutz - GGLC Chairperson

I would firstly like to **thank Simon Williams** for serving us for 6 years as Treasurer. Church Council has filled the casual vacancy by **appointing Lesley Friedrich as Treasurer** until the next election meeting. Big thanks to Lesley for volunteering to take this on!

Also related, Council has created a new **Money Handling Policy** which borrows from the LCA policy and incorporates our local circumstances to ensure best practice. Appropriate policies and procedures both protect the money that has been entrusted to the church and protects the individuals who handle it. The basic principle is that two people should have joint custody of any cash, and there should be an auditable paper trail. If you handle money on behalf of the church, please make yourself familiar with the new policy...

... which is available on the church website under the newly created category "For Members/Church Documents/Governance Documents". Various policies, our Constitution, Partnership Covenant with GGLPS and list of current office bearers can be found there. <http://www.gglc.org.au/gglc/church/documents.html>

At a Special General Meeting of the congregation in April, the congregation **supported the proposal** to put a motion to the LCA General Convention of Synod 2018 **in favour of the ordination of both men and women**. Our proposal (and identical proposals from many other congregations) has been referred to General Church Council for discussion in June, and is then likely to be referred on to the Pastor's Conference in July before finally being considered at Synod in October.

I would like to **thank all** in attendance at our AGM in May and in particular for the useful discussion around fundraising options to finish the renovations. Due to some components of the renovation exceeding or being likely to exceed budget (particularly air conditioning and carpet), and coupled with a diminishing cash flow buffer, we find ourselves about \$15k short of funds to complete the planned program. Consequently, the deck component has been deferred until we are able to afford it. **There was strong support at the AGM for a firewood fundraiser** in order to bring the deck back into the program. There will be further news on this shortly.

Alison Ahrens, who over the years has invested an

enormous amount of labour into establishing and running the library, has decided to step down from her role. We **thank Alison** for her efforts and the significant impact her work has had on the library and its borrowers. It is an interesting time in the life of the library as it will become an integral part of Café Connect, and **new volunteers are being sought to share in the challenges of making it work well.**

Finally, I would also like to say thank you to Rosalie and Ken for being our **District Synod representatives at Tatachilla** in early May, and for providing a comprehensive report to the congregation. See summary article on page 3.

Toilet renovations are well under way. Proposed completion should be the start of Term 3.



Thurs 29th Nov to Sat 1st Dec

See: Decorated trees, Nativities, Train layout, Wall hangings

Buy: Crafts, Biscuits & Cakes, Plants, Produce, Children's gifts

Enjoy: Morning/ Afternoon Teas, Light meals, Sausage Sizzle

A bi-annual event, hosted @ Tea Tree Gully Uniting, 600 Milne Rd, Banksia Park

ONE LOCATION ... MANY CHURCHES
with proceeds supporting our local Pastoral Care Workers / Chaplains

You must stop seeing God as separate from you, and you as separate from each other. Nothing exists in the universe that is separate from anything else. Everything is intrinsically connected, irrevocably interdependent, interactive, interwoven into the fabric of all of life.

Neale Donald Walsch

Mission statement: Giving all people opportunities to fish in a Christ centred environment.

This LITV “Connections” theme resonates well with GGAF. The Club brings together people and families from many different backgrounds with a common interest in fishing and fellowship. This connectedness gives all people the opportunity to fish in a Christ centred environment.

COCKLING at GOOLWA BEACH—Sat 3rd March

38 attendees were treated to excellent beach conditions for cockling—calm and comfortable given the 9am start. Cockles were plentiful and of good size with most cocklers collecting their 300. Almost all who made the trip stayed for the BBQ sausage sizzle lunch at Robyn & Michael Oatey’s holiday house near the beach. Many thanks to them for their hospitality and those members who provided salads. An excellent end to a wonderful family day.



PORT NOARLUNGA JETTY/BEACH—Sat 14th April - submitted by Chris Simanis

17 fearless fishers attended the Port Noarlunga event. On arrival they were greeted with 64kmh/h gale force winds and driving rain. The group decided to adjourn to a nearby café to avoid the weather for hot coffee and to decide whether or not to cancel the event. The rain eased to drizzle and at 10.30am a decision was for the weigh in to be brought forward from 4.30 to 1pm and that they should brave the elements to see if any salmon had come in behind the reef. 8 fishers attempted but to no avail with no bites recorded but several baits lost, probably to crabs. At 12.30 they decided to give up as the seas started to vent through the jetty planks below. Shelter was found at the Onkaparinga River where a few undersize bream were caught. There were no keepers to weigh in but all had an enjoyable experience!!



SURF FISHING at WAITPINGA BEACH—Sat 5th May

Fishing at Waitpinga was attended by 18 people on a perfect day for surf fishing with light winds for easy casting, some sunshine and good tide. Many fish were on the chew thus resulting in a total of 75 legal fish landed for the day—65 Salmon Trout, 1 Salmon, 2 Mullet and 7 Australian Herring (Tommy Ruff). Senior winner was Lou Goegan with a 35 cm Salmon (.47 kg). Graeme Hoklas led the way with 16 fish followed by Lou Goegan and Peter Van Loggem 15 each and Chris Simanis 11. Most attendees enjoyed dinner and fellowship at the Crown Hotel, Victor Harbor after the event.



BLANCHETOWN RIVER MURRAY—Sat 26th May

Perfect weather greeted the 37 attendees at Blanchetown. Most fishers tried their luck over the bridge near the caravan park with mixed success. Ruth Zimmermann surprised with a good size Silver Perch—a protected species and returned to the water. All other fish caught were Carp. Zimmo landed a 2.8 kg and Louise Sumner ventured to the backwaters for a 3.4 kg Carp. Chris Simanis (caught most fish with 10) and Lou & Ines Goegan travelled up river to a spot that yielded the catch of the day for Lou with a 5.6 kg Carp closely followed by Ines with a 4.6 kg catch. A total of 26 Carp were caught weighing 42.5 kg. The sausage sizzle for lunch was most appreciated by all. Following weigh in 10 people dined at the Blanchetown Hotel for dinner.



NEXT EVENTS

25th June Tackle Night 7.30pm
13-16th July Streaky Bay (Eyre Peninsula)
Enquiries to Graeme Hoklas 0419 828 091





Eager For a Relationship With God

by Rod Hall

*Always be ready to
give an answer
1 Peter 3:15*

I would like to introduce myself, my family and share a little of my faith journey and what brings us here into the Golden Grove Lutheran Community.

I have been **eager for a relationship with God** for as long as I can remember. Ruth and I have been married for nearly 39 years. We have four children, Kirsty in Vancouver, Luke in Orange NSW, Brett in Adelaide and Lauren in Melbourne.

About 30 years ago, we were struggling in our faith and our marriage. **God met with us in a new way through the baptism of the Holy Spirit.** Our journey since then has been on going with seasons of change, some exhilarating, some not so exciting, and some really difficult times. We know, through it all, **that His plans are perfect and His Word is true.**

We have travelled and lived in various parts of the country and the world but returned to Adelaide two years ago to be close to family, particularly Ruth's mum, Hilda, who is heading toward her 92nd birthday.

Over the years various organizations have become important in our lives and I hope to be able to share some of these with the GGLC community.

Christian Blind Mission supports disadvantaged people all over the world in many ways, we have been supporting their work for many years.

Creation Ministries started in Adelaide about 40 years ago, primarily to equip Christians to defend their faith in a culture where God's relevance is continually being challenged in the media, schools, universities and even in the church!

It is now operating around the world providing great scientific evidence supporting a true, historical interpretation of the bible and trust in Jesus, the Word of God.

I am somewhat politically active, aligned with the Australian Christian Lobby and The Conservatives. The erosion of our nation's culture by abandoning our Christian Heritage is causing problems in every area of life in Australia and the world. We are called to be Salt and Light in the world but both of these things can cause discomfort! Think about salt in a wound, or bright light when you come out of a dark place so we are to expect opposition.

The last organization I will mention is the **Australian Prayer Network.** Having connected praying people for many years, God challenged the leadership to start training regular Christians in prayer a few years ago, not knowing how hungry Australians were for this. This is not new teaching as such but opening up the scriptures using the experiences and knowledge gained over many years of praying and prayer assignments in Australia and overseas. These training schools are breathing new life into communities across the land. I attended the Foundation course just over a year ago and have progressed through more advanced levels since then. Understanding prayer is important but praying effectively is vital to our families, our communities and our world. I encourage everyone in the congregation to be a part of the **Watchmen School of Intercession.** Our first school starts in mid-July, please register interest by calling me on 0421965590, or catch up with me at church.

We are looking forward to meeting you and growing friendships.

Be ready at all times...

**to answer anyone
who asks you
to explain the hope
you have in you**

**- but do it with
gentleness
and respect. 1 Peter 3:15**

How Paella Saved My Life!

By Rebecca (Bec) Watcol



I'm a mum of 4 children, 3 of whom are still in attendance at GGLPS. My first husband died by suicide 9 years ago. I didn't have a community around me, I had pushed my friends away and I had no idea what was important to me. I would learn these things eventually.

(Please contact Lifeline, your Pastor or a trusted friend if feel you need to talk to someone. You are not alone.)

As a new widow, I moved into a share house with my gorgeous 2yr old daughter. It was in this house where I first decided to make Paella. I hadn't made it before, nor had I eaten it, but I was determined to learn how to make it. I bought a special paella pan and I googled a recipe, but I had only a small number of friends to feed it to. So I asked the friends I did have to come along and bring a friend with them, which they did. I met some fun and interesting people that night and decided a month later to do it all again. I invited all of the people who had come the first night, to come again and asked them all to bring a friend. In a matter of 4 weeks I went from knowing 5 people to making paella for 20. It was amazing. By feeding strangers, I had started to **create a new community, make friends and connect with some wonderful people**. It felt so good to be a part of something fun and engaging. I continued to host a monthly "Paella Night" for the next couple of years. I purchased bigger Paella pans and experimented with a number of paella variations.

When I met my new husband, James, I told him that I dreamed of one day making a giant paella to share with lots of people, maybe making it at special events or something similar. Then 2 years ago, as a congratulations gift for getting a new job, James gave me a GIANT Paella pan, big enough to feed 100 people. He gave it to me and said **let's make your dream come true**. "It was so big that my 3 year old son could lay in it and fit! When I told my Dad about my new pan he suggested I cook at a new event named "A Day at the 'Burgh" in Edithburgh. So I signed up and made Paella for 100 people, raising \$200 for the Edithburgh CFS. I went back again last year and cooked 2 pans of Paella at "A Day at the 'Burgh", this time raising

\$500 for the Edithburgh CFS. I will go back again this year in November.

Making Paella has been a fun and delicious adventure for me. **It has helped to mend a broken heart, connect with other people and create a community.** Today I understand that my personal values include community, openness, generosity, and service. **I love Paella because it brings people together**, it allows me to be generous and I am able to serve others. It's a winner all round!



Asaroka Partnership News

By Dan Sigggab

Martin Akiro is the Principal. Noelsah Kubakure, Pauline Basse and Aki Olisagave are deputies. The school is picking up and things are beginning to be in order under Akiro's leadership. All teachers are working normal in their teaching duties. Of course there are problems too but these are being resolved. God is in control. Things sent from Adelaide have been of great assistance as the Government's money alone is not enough to run the school. Especially the computers are helping all departments and students' labs. We thank you for standing with us in prayer and support. God Bless



Martin Akiro the new principal with his wife Priscilla and Rosalie (editor LITV) taken during the last trip to PNG in 2017

The truth is God created us to have relationship with us. He wants to love us and take care of us, and He wants us to love Him. That's where our walk with Christ has to start.

— Joyce Meyer —



'God is good, always'

By Pam Copeland

I'm Pam Copeland and my husband, Geoff and I have been a members of Golden Grove Lutheran Church since 1992.

I was born in the little Riverland township of Monash to wonderful parents & an older brother. Life was good. My parents were Lutheran and worshiped at Zion, Berri frequently.

In 1965 I was confirmed in the Berri church and after this I experienced my first real grief and sorrow.

The baby my mother was due to deliver passed away two hours after birth. My sorrow for the baby brother I'd never got to know was nothing compared to my mother's grief and she was scarred for life.

She searched for comfort at church, but was unable to get over her sorrow and there was no counselling in those days. As a result she left the church and our family left with her.

I still prayed, read the Bible and listened to church services on the radio. But my teenage years were a little difficult and towards my late teens I was making some unwise decisions.

Looking back I know that **God was always with me**, and in 1971 I met my husband, Geoff Copeland in Waikerie. I was a bridesmaid in my cousin, Juleene's wedding and Geoff drove the bridesmaids' car as he worked for her husband Russell. Geoff's family were Lutheran and soon I was worshipping with the family at Ramco Lutheran Church.

We married in 1974 and I moved into Geoff's rented unit at Nailsworth, as he was now a Police Constable. In 1975 we moved into our first home at Parafield Gardens just before the birth of our first child, Tanya in 1976. Fourteen months later, our second child, Brett was born. Then, four years after that we had our third child, Melissa. All this time I was a stay-at-home mum.

Salisbury Lutheran Church was our congregation, and we worshiped there somewhat irregularly, partly due to shift work and some stresses. I was in a bit of a rut and lost confidence in myself.

Again God was with us, and the month our third child started school (at St Paul's Lutheran School Blair Athol) I was blessed to get a position at the National Office of the LCA in the Overseas Mission Department. My skills and confidence grew. I admired my boss, Dr Ron Gerhardy who

was an inspiring and Godly man.

Four confronting events happened during these years. The first one happily had a good outcome. A fourth child, Jarrod was born in 1974, eleven weeks premature weighing 1110gms. After a collapsed lung, a bleed on the brain and a hole in the heart, he is now healthy. He spent 3 months in Queen Victoria Hospital where one of his doctors was Jacquie Schutz. **We know multitudes of prayers were with us all at that time.**

In 2006 I visited the doctor, two days after our third granddaughter was born, to find I had breast cancer which was quite advanced. During a double mastectomy, reconstruction and radiation my mother was diagnosed with cancer and passed away three days later. I still miss her dearly, but can happily say she remained a Christian all her life and had a very strong faith.

The last of the events happened in 2007 when I was hit by a car running a red light. My son Jarrod and his friend, both 13 at the time were in the back seat. By God's grace we were not badly injured, the worst being a broken sternum, but all recovered.

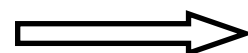
I feel that I was unsettled during this time and **relied heavily on God** and my family. So after 21 years in the Overseas Mission position, and loving the work for the three consecutive directors, Dr. Gerhardy, Dr. Ulf Metzner and Rev. Wayne Zweck, I sadly resigned. I then moved from job to job where I continued to feel unsettled and disheartened.

Our church family at Golden Grove were also amazing and I am so thankful for their love and support. I still have my big book of cards and messages which I received at a healing service before my mastectomy operation. Marilyn Seidel arranged meals for our family for many weeks while I was healing. We also had Tanya, Scott and their three children at our home while their house was being built, and they were also looked after by our wonderful congregation.

In 2016, almost 10 years to the day I first was diagnosed, it was discovered the cancer had come back as a secondary in my uterus. I had a hysterectomy a few days later where it was found to be in my lymph nodes. At this time I was told of the **healing ministry** of Paul Napier, Jon Schiller, Luke Wachtel and others. The first time Paul prayed for me, my body rumbled, a massive heat came over me and tears flowed.

The first 8 months after were reasonably uneventful, but then cancer blood levels went up and it was discovered that I had bone cancer. Treatment continued as did prayers and love from family and friends. Late last year tumors were found in my liver, and then my cancer became 4th stage and I began chemotherapy once again.

Pam's story continues on the following page, page 9.



Pam's story continues.....

In February this year, a day after Geoff's and my first ever boat cruise (where I felt sick every day) I was hospitalized with kidneys going into failure, my bowel was shutting down and my liver also looked very unwell. I spent over a week in hospital, having two blood transfusions, scans, x-rays and multiple bags of saline to flush me out.

Jon Schiller visited me at this time, and he asked if he could pray for me. "Yes, please", I was quick to reply. Again I felt **this amazing presence of God's spirit**, my body trembled (especially the affected areas), heat flowed through me and I could not stop the tears. Both Jon and I smiled and knew that **God had been at work** once again.

Good News. Several weeks ago I had a thorough CT scan and the doctor was amazed that the tumors on my liver had disappeared, all but one little spot. My last blood count was 40 which is just over the safe level.

I am now retired and loving every day. I love spending extra time with Geoff and my family which consist of 4 children and their partners and 9 grandchildren. Some mornings I look after my two youngest grand-daughters while their mums work. I am also hoping to help with the congregation's new coffee shop, Cafe Connect when it is completed.

God is good, always, even when things are not going well. I fully understand this as I look back over my life and when I read His Word and pray. Thank you to each and every one of you who have upheld me and my family in prayer and actions during these times. **Pastors and church families are certainly a blessing that I cannot imagine being without.**

My favourite Bible verse is: Jeremiah 29:11- 13. I have found this to be a great source of comfort and strength especially during difficult times.



We warmly welcome women to our Winter Weekend Retreat ...

Interwoven

Brought to you by Golden Grove Lutheran Community

When: Friday 29th June to Sunday 1st July 2018

Where: Nunyara Conference Centre, Belsir

Why: Rest, relax, refresh, have fun & fellowship!

Register now at:
<http://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/m2194w4f9K3aHd3VRzPhT? ga=2.208497554.1002343480.1522750986-465530075.1522555604>
(direct link from GGLC website) or grab a paper form from the church / office

Cost: \$150 First-timers: \$120
Part-time & subsidies available - Bring a friend!

Class Carer's

Golden Grove Lutheran Primary School by Bec Watcol

"Act Justly. Love Mercy. Walk Humbly"
Micah 6:8

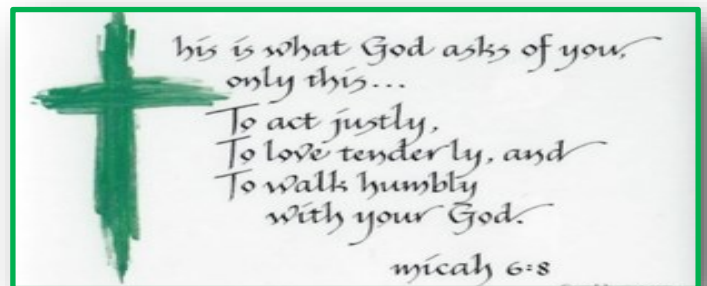
Class carers are a group of parents who **voluntarily work to nurture our school community**. This is achieved by supporting students and families within the school through little **acts of kindness, practical acts of service and gentle encouragement**.

Examples of how we do this is by:

- Providing sandwiches to be kept in the staff room freezer for children who have forgotten their lunches,
- Providing meals to families who are going through a difficult time,
- Providing a mother's day and father's day stall where children can purchase inexpensive, good quality presents to give to parents and grandparents.
- We arrange for cards to be signed and given to families when a new baby is born or when there is ill health or a death in the family.
- We purchase gifts for teachers on behalf of the class to thank them for their service
- Arrange transport for children to get to and from school when a parent is unable to do so.

Our Class Carers are a group of dedicated parents that are seen as the "go to" people in the school when something needs to be done. They liaise with teachers, families and students to get the support that is needed, when it is needed. Our class carers are encouraged to **talk to people and help people to connect within the community**. This might be done by talking to a parent and introducing them to another parent from the school, or helping out on a school excursion or getting involved at a school event such as sports day. Often our class carers do not know who they are helping when they are called to assist, however they do it knowing that their contribution has a big impact on the overall community. Students have also said that they feel more secure at school knowing that there is a small army of parents willing to help at any time.

We understand that the more we can encourage our community to connect with one another and reach out to each other, the stronger our community will be.





GOLDEN GROVE LUTHERAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Principal—Shane Paterson

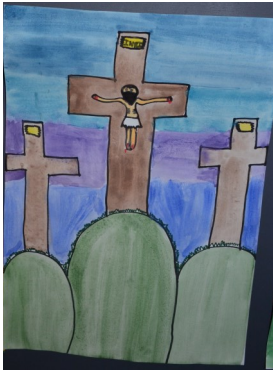
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BELIEVE COLLABORATE ACHIEVE

... in our community all people matter



Bind Us Together

When Rosalie shared the theme of this edition of 'Life in the Vine', the old (favourite) song from the 'green book', '*Bind us together*' kept going through my head.

Connections in the school can be seen as **binding us together - in love.**

Perhaps another word for connection could also be collaboration. For if we are connected or bound

together we will be collaborating with each other. Collaborate is one of the words in our school Vision statement, 'Believe, Collaborate, Achieve'.



There are many ways in which connections, binding or collaboration is seen in the school:

With the congregation – we connect parents with Mainly Music, Playgroup, GGAF, CC's, youth and the anticipated use of coffee shop 'Café Connect' once renovations are completed.

The Gospel – through worship, Christian Studies lessons, supporting and caring for students and families, through modelling the faith and being Christ like to each other;

With parents – we make connections with parents through parent / teacher interviews, through sharing work 'on-line', by encouraging parents to participate in class activities;

Within our community - P. & F. (Parents & Friends) and Class Carers organise and encourage participation in community events. MOT (Middle Of the Term breakfast), Christmas picnic and carols, disco, Mothers and Fathers day stalls are just some of the ways connections are made;

Connected Schools – in recent years our connections with local Lutheran Education sites has been strengthened through the launch of 'Connected Schools'. This alliance has a wonderful opportunity to share Lutheran Education with members of the northern suburbs communities.



Mothers Day Stall

There are so many ways through which we can see connections in the school.

Through all these connections **we are bound together, we work together to both educate the children and to share the Gospel with all in our community.** May God continue to bless this work.

Blessings, *Shane Paterson*



Endeavour college students connecting with the primary school children through sport .



Golden Grove Lutheran Youth

G'day all

Youth is in full swing this term and what a term we are having. We kicked off on May the 4th. That was 'Star Wars Day' so we had to have a Star Wars themed night. It was a great night and lots of fun was had by all the youth. The leaders also enjoyed it. The evening concluded with us talking about the **armour of God**.

Thanks to Jon Schutz and his family for hosting a bonfire for the youth which was a conjoint event with Para Vista. Although it was raining it didn't stop everyone from having a great time. Our **theme for the night was Pentecost**, so quite fitting to have a fire.

We still have a 'ping pong-a-thon', a games night at Para Vista and a movie night to look forward to along with devotion nights this term.

Our youth Alpha nights which include a meal and a short video followed by small group discussion are going well. We would like to **thank** all those who have cooked a meal for us at the start of the night. We have been blessed by you giving your time to do this for us and we are very thankful.

We have also continued with the combined worship nights. The first of two this term was held at Para Vista. The second is to be at Tea Tree Gully with the aim of having a camp style worship open to everyone who would like to come.

It's been a great start to the term and along with all the youth leaders I am excited to see how the rest of the term unfolds. If you want any info or want to know more contact me. I'd love to hear from you and have a chat.

God bless Paul Voigt



Young Adults by Jesse Hahn

Here is an update on the young adult events that have been happening in the north-eastern area. We have been running a young adults **Bible Study called Apply** every Monday night for almost a year now. We have done a variety of studies, including being the "guinea pigs" for a new set of studies being released by the Lutheran Church called "Talking Points". This was really interesting as it involved looking at both local and international issues, how they impact us, and what the Bible says about them. This even featured a spot in the April edition of 'The Lutheran.' Some comments from the group:

*"The Talking Point Study covers a wide range of topics and it offers the opportunity for those doing the study to go in **depth and build community.**"* Joel schiller

*"These studies have allowed our small group to tackle some important issues in a relevant way, and from a biblical foundation. When taken slowly, they have a way of drawing out some interesting ideas and **challenging people with the truth.**"* Lachlan Ahrens



Currently we are going through the book of Romans. Reid Matthias, a pastor from Para Vista Lutheran Church has come and answered some questions about baptism and faith.

On the topic of Para Vista, a team from there have been organising young adult's events. So far we have seen things like board game afternoons, getting-to-know-you dinners, and giant games. There are even a couple of dancing classes planned in the upcoming weeks for young adults to learn to dance. These are open to all young adults, and we would encourage anyone in the area who want to meet new people in a Christian environment to come along and have a blast.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me on 0431 523 160, or speak to Paul Voigt or myself at church.



Children's Ministry

By Natasha Jaeschke, Ruth Zimmermann & Rosalie Hoklas



Children are important to God and to us here at Golden Grove Lutheran Church. Jesus said "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them" Matthew 19:14. This is what we strive to do; guide our children toward a relationship with God and help them form deeper connections with God.

Mainly Music/Playgroup provides an opportunity for children, birth to school age, to meet weekly on Friday mornings to sing, dance and make social connections. In a supportive and caring environment, through the interactive mediums of play and song, little ones and their families learn about God and about connecting with each other. At present 25 families are attending regularly to explore the theme of Music and Movement. God is at work among us.



CC's offers a significant opportunity to connect and share God's wonders through a variety of activities that are specifically designed for GGLPS and GGLC children in Reception to Year 6.

On Friday 25th May – an indoor movie night was held in the worship centre. This focussed on bringing together children and families from Church, School, Playgroup and Youth.

The Youth, GGLC and GGLPS families come together and work collaboratively to assist in providing and setting up the activities for the children.

Connections and relationships develop with the children and with each other as they work together. Further relationships and contacts are made when members of GGLC provide afternoon tea for the children and families attending CCs.

In week 7 – 15/6/18 - Bowling night will be held at Kingpin Salisbury.



The goal of **Kids @ Heart** is to provide a safe haven for kids to discover & develop a relationship with & a passion for God. Through worship, teaching and a variety of fun activities, children are exposed to God's word and challenged to grow in their relationship with God. **Bible song** is a program where children explore a selected passage from the readings of the day, using visual arts, enquiry & discussion. A craft activity draws ideas together which can then be shared with families at home.

