

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

# BOOK OF REPORTS



## Annual General Meeting

25 February, 2018

# Agenda

## AGENDA OF HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

To be held at 10.00am, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2018 in the church

### Welcome and Opening

**Present:**

**Apologies:**

**Minutes:** from meeting held 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017

### REPORTS:

1. Pastors' Reports
2. Chairman's Report
3. Pastoral Assistant's Report
4. Youth and family Ministry Workers Report
5. Holy Trinity Lutheran College Report
6. Safe Place Coordinators Report
7. Seniors Ministry Report
8. Committees
  - Worship Coordination Team
  - Care 4 U
  - Properties Committee
  - Prayer Team
9. Afternoon Ladies Guild
10. Children's Ministry
11. Mission
12. Financial Statement – Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
13. Holy Trinity Lutheran College Financial Report
14. Jacob's Well

### GENERAL BUSINESS

**Close of Meeting**

# Minutes of Meeting

## HOLY TRINITY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

HELD AT 10.00 AM ON SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2017 IN THE CHURCH.

**Welcome and Opening:** Steve Cramer welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. Steve Cramer opened with prayer.

**Present:** 98 were listed as present on the attendance record.

**Apologies:** 8 people were listed in the apologies record.

### Minutes of:

- Congregational AGM held on 26 February 2017.
- Congregational Meeting held on 4 June 2017
- Congregational Meeting held on 9 September 2017  
An amendment to 4 June minutes. The minutes should have read **Daniel** Weller.  
The minutes were then found to be a true and correct record. Moved, seconded and carried.

### Elections:

**Pastor Gus declared all positions vacant.**

- Elections for office bearers took place and results are as per attached sheet.
- Lynda Henstridge was added as an additional member for church council.
- Jo Carroll was added to the worship team.  
All standing committee were declared elected.

We have been advised by District Church Council that Colin Kreymborg's role as Auditor is invalid as he is a member of the congregation. Steve Cramer announced that an auditor recommended by the District is being sourced.

### Holy Trinity Congregational Budget for 2018.

Treasurer Arnold Niewand presented the 2018 budget.

The proposed budget for the 2018 year is \$446,670.

There will be some alterations as the insurance will go up \$2000 to \$16,000.

The College will contribute \$5,000 extra for the Pastors salary.

### Holy Trinity Lutheran College Fees for 2018.

Garry Wallace (Business Manager at HTLC) moved an increase of up to 5% for 2018 for both Primary and Middle and Upper College tuition. All were in favour.

Seconded and carried.

**General Business** - There was no general business.

### Close:

The meeting closed at 10.30am.

**Signed as a true and correct record:**

**Steve Cramer – Meeting Chairman**

# Pastors' Reports

## Pastor Gus Schutz

Serving at both the Holy Trinity Lutheran College and Congregation continues to be a privilege. As pastor to the College, that remains my primary focus. However, while I may spend most of my time at the College, I still offer support to the ministries of the congregation. You see that in my leading of Worship, conducting of funerals and weddings and participation in other areas like 'Knowing Jesus', Youth, Small Groups and Mission ministry. I also support Pastor Geoff in sharing the load of Home Communion visits, hospital and general visitation.

This Year (2018) the College community grows to include a Year 11 class. The continued expansion of the College means the Pastor to the College assumes a greater role there. As such the congregation may need to prepare for the time when the second pastor will almost exclusively serve the College community. That may not be such a burden with the continuing dramatic decline of participation in congregational ministries. This is reflected in our attendances and the increasing challenge we have in meeting the budget of our congregation. Given all that, I marvel at God's goodness seen in our ability to do what we do and give what is given.

Dividing loyalties between the College and the Congregation can provide its challenges both for me and for you. Thankfully the atmosphere is generally one of sensitivity to and support of that. It is important for us all to remember that the College has grown to become what it is out of the vision and mission heart of Holy Trinity, and of course, with God's presence in and his amazing blessing on our College.

While the growth of the College is a real joy for us and our community, it also presents its own unique issues. I thank God for and applaud the leadership team for maintaining a focus on what it means for us to be a Lutheran College and what that may look like in the day to day operational life of the College. This is particularly important for a growing staff new to our College and the 'brand of being Lutheran'. It also highlights the privilege that it is to at this time be pastor to the College – the students, the staff and the parent and supportive community.

Naturally my primary role is giving attention to the spiritual life of the College. This happens under the encouraging and supportive Principal and Leadership Team. The worship life of the Junior School, the Middle and Senior Schools is vital and hopefully shapes in a positive way who we are and what we are about in a Lutheran College.

As we move forward, along with a group of passionate people here at Holy Trinity, I will continue to give prayerful attention to the mission opportunities a growing College community offers. Who we are and what we do as God's people in the world compels us to meet the spiritual needs of his people in this place at this time. Our challenge is to have the heart and mind of Jesus, and to desire what he desires, which is for all people: ***'to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ'*** (Ephesians 3:18) for them, so that they may really live in a loving relationship with Jesus, as they are loved by him.

May God bless our moving forward at Holy Trinity – the College and the Congregation.

Pastor Gus

## Pastor Geoff Schefe

*<sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. <sup>12</sup>But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; <sup>13</sup>esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. <sup>14</sup>And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. <sup>15</sup>See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. <sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit.* (1 Thessalonians 5:11-19 (NRSV))

2017 was for me a year of further growth; further settling in – especially getting to know more people and trying to remember who is who. (You may have realized by now that remembering people’s names is a **gift** that has not been apportioned to me in abundance. I am getting better though, so I beg for your patience in this matter.)

Following are some features of the parish work and personal activities I have participated in during 2017.

- Baptisms: - I conducted 12 baptisms including one adult.
- Weddings: - I had the privilege of doing my first two weddings, the first in March and the second in November. I have one more definite booking for October 2018 (my niece Hannah Deckert).
- Funerals:- 11 funerals were conducted by myself at Holy Trinity, as well as two at Vectis and one at Natimuk due to the pastor vacancy in that parish.
- Home Communion: - The opportunity to provide pastoral care for our congregation’s shut-ins is a vital part of Pr Gus’ and my ministry work. I was able to do almost 100 personal visits during the year with ..... members receiving the gift of refreshment, renewal and reminder of Jesus love and grace given through Jesus’ body and blood.
- Hospital Visits: - I maintain a regular routine of visiting at the Wimmera Base Hospital. I have also done a few visits at the Dimboola Hospital, specifically the nursing home wing.
- Rosie and I once again hosted fortnightly BBB (barbeque, beverages and bible study) sessions.
- From October till early December I led an adult confirmation class at the Rennison St manse. There are 10 regular participants who meet on Friday afternoons. We recommence lessons from mid-January.
- I enjoyed the experience of occasionally giving ‘the message’ at Junior School chapel at Holy Trinity Lutheran College.
- I regularly represent our congregation at the Horsham Christian Ministers Association (HCMA) monthly meetings. It was a privilege and honour to be asked to and deliver the Ministers Association Australia Day address.
- Rosie and I both appreciated the opportunity to participate in and observe the processes of an Alpha-Marriage Course. We plan on hosting this excellent course later in 2018.
- Rosie is thoroughly enjoying her work at Jacob’s Well book and gift store.
- I have enjoyed the social and community interaction, as well as the exercise, by playing cricket for Horsham Saints. Unfortunately a shoulder issue (my bowling arm) is threatening to severely curtail my enjoyment of this activity.

## Pastor Greg Koch

Through my chaplaincy position you continue to serve the seventy five elderly residents of Trinity Manor and others. Lutherans usually comprise about 20% of the residents, with the largest representation usually from the Uniting Church. I am chaplain to all residents who will accept my ministry, even though many are actively cared for by their own churches.

Our Sunday worship service is always attended by Christians of all brands, and we are usually blessed to have some family members visiting us for that service. Whether the service is led by me or one of your lay people, the residents and their family members often tell me how much they appreciate being able to worship on the premises, and appreciate the worship leaders and their gospel message each week.

As you are aware, we have had a change of CEO. I would like to thank Peter Jenkin for his wonderful service over 3 years and for the way he was able to get the place ticking over nicely in that time; but also for the great support he gave me. Our new CEO, Denise Hooper, is settling in well. With her experience in the clinical field, she has a very good rapport with staff and residents even at this early stage. She is always chatting with residents as she goes about her business, and also finds time to visit some of them in their rooms; they are chuffed when the “Boss” makes time for them in these ways.

In fact Denise is simply modelling the loving and caring attitude shown by the whole staff here at Trinity Manor. We are not perfect and make mistakes, but we do try to show love to residents and to each other. This of course is in sync with the Christian way modelled to us by Jesus Christ himself as he gave up his own interests for the sake of others on the cross.

Trinity Manor is not just a facility – it is “home” to each resident. All staff members work very hard at helping this place to be a pleasant and friendly place to call home. I would like to thank all people who support me in my work; especially Owana for her organ playing, all the staff and volunteers at HTLC, Trevor (volunteer), and Charlene (activities).

I continue to thank God for providing this place to care for the elderly in this region. And I thank all of you at HTLC for your commitment to this facility and to God’s ministry here. I wish you all God’s blessings for your meeting today and for your journey together in 2018.

## Chairman’s Report

Thank you to all who have made my job easy for the last few years; pastors, office staff, Church Council members and members of the congregation, many people selflessly serve and contribute to the life of Holy Trinity.

A concern of mine is that two third of our members are 65 plus. It gets harder each year to find people to fill positions on the various committees. More importantly, how do we bring the gospel and welcome the 20 - 40 age group into our fellowship, the group most noticeably absent in our membership. This is an ongoing issue and an issue for many churches including other denominations. We need to continually wrestle with this issue. Inevitably there will be change and how we manage and accept that change will be important.

Thank you Peter for taking over and may God bless you in the role of chairman

Steve Cramer  
Retired Chairman

## Pastoral Assistants' Report

With yet another year behind us we have had some changes to the Pastoral Assistant's team.

Departing are Andrew Wundke and Tim Rethus who are both moving on to other committees. I wish to extend my thanks to them for the faithful manner in which they have undertaken their duties. Andrew has diligently served as Secretary for the PA team for some years.

However I am pleased to welcome two "new" faces in Robert Keller and Gordon Mills. I pray that you will be both blessed and a blessing as you serve our Lord and Saviour.

As a matter of interest, Pastoral Assistants are now meeting every second month unless any urgent matters need to be addressed.

We thank God for the work that Pastor Geoff, Pastor Gus and Pastor Greg are doing in the Congregation, College and Sunnyside communities.

Respectfully Submitted  
Maurice Rudolph (Chairperson)

## Young People & Family Ministry Worker

Our Youth group has enjoyed another year of time together through many different activities and time of being together as part of God's family. Our youth room is used when it is not too cold but with the new cladding on it, it looking pretty good. Some of our youth members will head off to Uni this year and we pray that God blesses them in their next step of life and learning.

Hilton and Jennifer Jones will also be leaving us as youth leaders. I thank God for their faithfulness and help over the years of leading. Emilie-Rae Woodhead and Greg Snowden will help lead in 2018.

Playgroup is a fun Friday morning with new and old families playing, making craft and listening to little devotions, prayers and songs. Some of the children will move onto Childcare or Kinder this year but it has been wonderful sharing Jesus with them. Leanore Hedts love for the mums and the children is an inspiration to me.

U-nique was enjoyed by the ladies with some wonderful nights of sharing, learning and finding new ways of sharing Jesus with women. Ann Nagorcka shared with us her work with Compassion early on in the year and many blessings have come from that night. Maureen Wynne's and Val Winfield's trip to St. Judes School in Tanzania gave us an insight of the incredible running of the school. We donated money for them to buy things for the school or whatever they thought was needed. Kirsten Schulz's talk on Autism was very well received. Kerrie Pietsch and I thank the women who have supported us during the year.

Along with Gus and Geoff, I once again enjoyed meeting our new Knowing Jesus Kids. Pastor Gus and I wrote a new program which was based on the gospel of Matthew. We really wanted to introduce Jesus in a new way. I have enjoyed being a support to Anne Penny as we presented Shine Girls at the HTL College. In February, I attended Empower in Tarneit, Lay workers Conference in Maroochydore in September and thoroughly loved being a camp parent for CLW in October.

Our family camp was a great success even though we were small in numbers. Rocklands Lodge provided us with a very relaxed style of camp. No rules and a lot of fun. Our Sunday service near the water was a highlight as the weather was perfect. We are blessed to have a facility so close to home that is affordable for families. Next year we have booked November.

I look forward to God's leading in this new year of 2018.  
In His Love Lynda Henstridge

# Holy Trinity Lutheran College

A favourite part of student's years are the final days of school, but for most of us it can be the busiest and most trying weeks of the year.

We have a busy schedule of report writing, gift and card buying as well as trying to fit in Christmas parties. At School Council it seems we have been busy all year. We have welcomed our new Principal, Mr Weller, in his first position as a Principal as well as other new staff. We have also been busy with the continuation of new school buildings and working on the next stages of the building process of senior secondary. Also mid way through the year we made the decision to change the School name from Holy Trinity Lutheran School to Holy Trinity Lutheran College. Along with that comes other things that align all this together, such as, Logo design, uniform design, as well as Website changes and a new smart phone app. Whilst this has been a very busy year it has been very rewarding and we have achieved a huge amount.

I believe we have a great and visionary college council of which I am privileged to be a part. Of course we could not do our job without the constant input from our Business manager, Mr Gary Wallace, and also our Principal, Mr Daniel Weller.

Another great support of our college is the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, and we thank especially pastor Gus for the time he spends at the college, but also Pastor Geoff and the whole congregation for the support they give the college and what we do.

There are such a lot of people and committees that do such a lot around the college, often unnoticed and unthanked, that we need to say thank you to. Unfortunately there are so many my report would be 4 pages long if I mentioned them all and I know that I would miss someone, so I am just going to be short and thank all those who have done great things in and around the college. I do want to just mention the PTFA who do an amazing job fundraising for the college, so that the students and the college can have just some special extras.

The stage is set for our growing college next year and we wish everybody a safe and blessed Christmas a refreshing we deserved break.

Yours in Christ,  
Richard Nagorcka  
College Council Chairman.

## Safe Place Update

SP3 report (Safe Place, Safe People Safe Programs)

There have been some big changes in Safe Place. Firstly you will see that the name has changed to reflect that we are not just about the safe place, but also people and programs.

Horsham hosted two Professional Standards courses. We offered varied times to cater for people's differing schedules. Unfortunately these were both not well attended as they did not make the minimum numbers of 10. However thankfully Wayne Lentsment who was the professional Standards coordinator made an exemption for us and ran the courses. I cannot emphasise how important it is for all those involved to complete the training. I too am only a volunteer and it would be easier all round if I didn't have to continually chase people to do their training. Except for the standards of ethical behaviour course, everything else is online, so you have the convenience of doing it from home. If you need help, please let me know, I am only too happy to sit with you and help.

We have had a couple of safety issues brought to our attention this year and these have or are being dealt with as quickly as possible.

Michael Benbow

## Seniors' Report

We have had another great Fun and Fellowship year with around 30 people regularly attending our fortnightly cards and games afternoons- five or six of these are well into their nineties but still enjoy the games and fellowship.

We had two special lunch days – one for our 14<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations and the other at Christmas. Our bus trip for the year was to the Brim, Sheep Hills and Rupanyup silos. We all enjoyed the hospitality of the Minyip congregation for afternoon tea, followed by a visit to the church and a brief history talk. A beautiful church with an amazing history!

We encourage you to come, bring your friends, and enjoy some fun and fellowship with members of our congregation and community. We can arrange transport if necessary and we look forward to welcoming new people. Contact Lyn on 5382 1133

I thank all members of the committee for their support and work. We pray God's continual blessings on this social group within our congregation and community.

Lyn Matuschka

## Worship Team Report – 2016 Activities

*Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things (Psalm 98:1a)*

The Worship Co-ordination Team aims to support our pastors, musicians, pastoral assistants and community as together we worship God in our Sunday services. The team's particular focus is to provide stimulating visual decoration for the worship space, especially at Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and Thanksgiving. Smaller displays are made for Reformation and Memorial Sunday. The Highway frontage of the church is also lit with external displays at Christmas and Easter as an additional outreach.

The team also organises volunteers to cook and serve breakfast following the Easter Dawn service at Holy Trinity Lutheran College. We thank the College for sharing their facilities and allowing us the early morning access which makes a free-flowing, worshipful atmosphere possible for growing numbers of people.

In 2017 the team organised the display of Graeme Schilling's model farm in the church for Thanksgiving (19 Feb). The newly built memorial garden was used to display three crosses during Holy Week (9-15 Apr) and then the resurrection butterfly was displayed from Easter (16 Apr). Flowers and tracts were given out for Mothers Day and jellybeans and tracts distributed on Fathers Day. Luther's Rose was displayed in the church to mark the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation (29 Oct) and then a reflective pool and paper flowers used to commemorate Memorial Sunday (5 Nov). The flowers for this display were made as one of the craft activities at the Holy Trinity family camp in October. As Christmas approached the memorial garden and hall foyer were again used for an extended nativity display visible to highway traffic. Thanks to the many volunteers who have happily assisted the Worship Co-ordination Team in bringing all of these ideas to reality. We also thank all those involved in the preparation of faith chests, given to the families of baptised children: in 2017 there were 14 chests created.

We particularly remember the long-term service of Robin Barrance, both as a team member and then as a regular volunteer. Robin's special task of maintaining the sanctuary candles has now been taken over by Ian Walter.

We thank Pastor Gus and Elly Schutz for their leadership over many years as they step back from regular participation in team meetings and tasks. Pastor Geoff and Rosie Scheffe are growing into this role. Regular team members continuing in 2018 are Carolyn Barnett, Jo Carroll, Noel Janetzki, Betty Janetzki and we joyfully welcome Carol MacDonald to the team

## Care 4 U Team Report

God has called each one of us to honour him by serving others.  
Here at Holy Trinity we thank him for the opportunities he places before us.

The Care 4 U team is a small group who mostly deliver goods from the Oven Door each Saturday afternoon. We thank the Oven Door for their generosity and our VERY small team of helpers. Currently we have 4 couples and a young lady from this very large congregation and 1 other lady who give up a couple of hours on a Saturday afternoon on a rotating roster to help families and individuals who are less fortunate than ourselves. Family commitments, illness holidays means our volunteers are rostered on every 4 weeks.

We have come to a critical stage if anybody were to drop out of the roster the service we provide would possibly cease.

So please give prayerful consideration to joining our team, we are desperate for help.  
Tearful responses from people who have received help show that this is worthwhile and it would be shameful to see it stop.

If you know of people who would appreciate some assistance with bread and other bakery items, please let us know. All assistance is kept confidential.

We have had calls for help around the home and transport for medical services. If you need assistance let us know and we will do our best to help.

In Christ

Gerard & Jan Ackland

## Properties Committee

2017 saw numerous small jobs completed around church and manse properties maintaining church property. The garden area in front of the hall was completed and members will continue to maintain this area, eradicating weeds and establishing plants.

Recladding of the hall behind the Ed Centre commenced in late 2017 and will be completed early 2018 – a big thanks to all involved to date. The back boundary fence at the Rennison Street manse will be replaced in 2018.

As in previous years, our committee thanks and appreciates Church Council and congregation members for their support in initiating, and their involvement in the numerous jobs completed around the church buildings, grounds and manses, many of which go unnoticed. We also thank businesses within our community who provide 'in kind' tasks which assist our congregation.

Many thanks to the members, particularly the new members who have joined the roster, who diligently mow the church lawns on a regular basis, a big job well done.

We look forward to your prayerful support in the year ahead.

Glenn Pietsch  
on behalf of Properties Committee members

# Prayer Ministry Update

God is solid and gracious at the same time. Throughout 2017 there were close to one hundred prayer requests shared by the Prayer Team either during Sunday Prayer time, or via the telephone and sms text prayer chain. Many of these could be classified as personal prayer requests, covering the whole of life's experiences and challenges. Some of the prayer requests highlighted the wonder and awe of our God, and His special blessings upon the lives of the people in his kingdom.

Some answers to prayer have included physical healing, emotional stability and peace and calm in people's lives. Other answers to prayer have been employment and study opportunities, safe travel for individuals and families, and an increase in discernment and resolution to work and life plans. Many prayer requests have centred round relationships with family, friends and work colleagues and most have resolved in an affirmative manner. All glory to God!

Some answers to prayer have produced quite stark responses including ending a relationship with a person, or moving away from a person with significant interaction and control. Other prayers have been about the manner people relate with one another and how this can have an adverse effect on the relationship. All the time God is intervening and present and allowing people to explore for themselves another angle to their complex lives.

The prayer team IS NOT a counselling service, nor does it offer advice to people. BUT, it steps in the gap with Jesus and allows God's mercy and justice to be revealed through a personal and intimate contact with people of faith.

It is now time to seek prayer for the workings of the prayer team members and their families and lives. And it is time for people who have a prayerful heart to step forward and let the prayer team leaders know they can contribute to this amazing and supportive ministry here at Holy Trinity.

Please speak with a prayer team member this month and volunteer for this supportive and encouraging ministry, or leave your details at the church office.

Prayer Team members are listed in the Trinity Prayer Network brochure available from the church office.

Wayne Lentsment Group Co-ordinator

# Afternoon Ladies Guild

We continue to meet on the first Tuesday of the month, usually in the Education Centre, but this year in April and October we met in the Community Centre at SLRV to encourage the village residents to attend. One of our members takes devotion and then Pastor Scheffe leads us in Bible Study taken from the Lutheran Woman, encouraging lots of discussion.

This year we had some very interesting guest speakers, Kate Pollock (Horsham College Chaplain), Pauline Kyte from the Christian Emergency Food Centre, Corbi Mc Queen from Priceline Pharmacy, who spoke on the care of aging skin and Lea Crammond from Hospice. In November which falls on Melbourne Cup Day we started early and then enjoyed a shared luncheon and fellowship. The year 5& 6 girls' choir from Holy Trinity Lutheran College entertained us at our Christmas meeting in December.

Our main event was a casserole lunch in June which proved very popular, raising \$1230 for the projects of the LWV and LWA. We also held a Cake Less Cake Stall in August raising \$207.00.

Several members were involved in, and many attended the World Day of Prayer held at the Salvation Army Church. Twice a year, with the help of Congregation members we deliver Meals on Wheels for a week.

Our Social committee, under the guidance of Janet Schwarz, caters for special events as well as funerals, a much-valued service.

This year on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> May we will be hosting the Lutheran Women of Vic. Convention starting with a dinner on the Friday night.

I would like to thank all members of the Guild and those of the Congregation who supported me over the past 12 months and encourage more ladies to join us this year.

Office bearers for 2017-2018 are President Marie Bergen, Vice-President – Lorna Mills, Secretary – Lorraine Norman, Assistant Secretary – Cheryl Linke, Treasurer- Leonie Hateley and Extra Members, Gloria Hill, Margaret Mattiske and Shirley Schilling

Donations – HTLC -	\$500
LWV Projects	\$250
LWA Projects	\$880
Kitchen loan	\$3000

Marie Bergen  
(President)

# Children's Ministry

## Kids' Time 2017

This year at Kids Time we have continued with a team approach to the leadership, gaining assistance from youth, and families to be involved in the running and operation of Kids Time. We have three leaders, 18 assistants including two youth who assist with leading the devotions.

Each week we have around 20 children at Kids Time, with a total of 82 children attending over the year. The Faith Inkubator programme 'Bible Song' is the resource we use each week. Bible Song presentations help children in building faith through hearing key stories from the bible, learning verses aided with sign language and a song, and sharing weekly highs and lows in a small group. Highlights were Marty Lieschke providing music on guitar, some fantastic story-telling, assisted by children dressing up as characters, delicious morning teas and overall atmosphere with kids and parents enjoying each other's fellowship.

A special thanks to the kids and youth who have volunteered in organising activities and games, IT support, as assistant leaders and helping out with activities.

A focus for 2018 will be looking into what other resources are available for cross-generational ministry. We have employed 'Bible Song' resource for over 10 years now and an Australian version is no longer available.

Child Safe policy is part of our ongoing mandate to provide a safe and inclusive program for children as stated in our code of conduct. Parents must provide medical and emergency information about their children, and leaders and volunteers are required to have an up-to-date 'working with children check' and leaders to have completed required training.

Kids Time has sponsored children from North Sumatra for a number of years now. Money is counted by the older children at the end of each term. In 2017 about \$250 was raised from weekly small change donations.

Thank you to the Kids Time team including helpers and families for your continued support of Kids Time. You add a wonderful warm and caring atmosphere to Kids Time, and it reflects God's love shining through you.

May God's love continue to shine on Children's Ministry at Holy Trinity 2018.

Yours in Christ

Imogen Schwarz and James Gross  
Kids Time Co-ordinators

# Mission Update

## Lutheran Highlands Seminary, Ogelbeng

The Seminary year is about to commence for 2018. The Vicarage program with 25 4<sup>th</sup> year students spending considerable time in placement in villages across PNG has completed and they will soon resume their 2018 program, preparing to graduate as pastors later in the year.

A new intake of 26 students will join the Seminary and commence their studies along with the other students, with classes beginning on February 12. A couple from Germany will be joining them to teach and help with the Women's program for one semester.

The seminary had a disrupted year in 2016 with a follow-on effect on timetabling and budget for 2017. Due to unrest at the time of the PNG elections, there were also interruptions to the seminary program during second and third terms last year.

FUNDRAISING- In July last year we had a Mission Evening fundraiser where we raised \$5000 AUD which was passed on to the Seminary to put towards the Bus project. There is still a further \$9000 AUD needed for them to be able to purchase the bus. This will enable students to be transported to Mt Hagen to do prison ministry, hospital visiting and to lead Bible studies in neighbouring villages.

We would like to THANK all of you for your support and prayers. Thank you to all who continue to donate to this mission by:

- Donating produce each week with the money collected going toward mission.
- The generous offerings specifically noted for PNG that are given regularly.

Some of the ideas we are considering for 2018 are:

- Kits for Ladies- sanitary kits similar to 'Days for Girls', which we would like to get congregation members to team up to produce.
- Kits for children- packs containing pencils, sharpeners, erasers, books, etc.
- A team to travel to PNG for 7 – 10 days to assist in a project.

Once again we wish to thank you for your generosity. We ask that you continue to pray for the lecturers, students and support community at Ogelbeng.

Eric and Leanore Hedt, Jill Cramer and Pastor Gus and Elly, on behalf of the HTLC Mission Team.