

POPULAR REPORT

from the 49th LCA SA-NT District Regular Convention of Synod
held at the Barossa Arts & Convention Centre, Tanunda

The Hope We Have 1 Peter 3:15

Worship

The 2021 District Convention of Synod began with opening worship led by Pastor Stephen Schultz and sermon by Bishop David Altus. Sunday morning worship was led by Pastor Rob Borgas, with sermon by Pastor John Henderson. We thank the musicians from Nuriootpa St Petri Congregation for Saturday worship and students of Faith Lutheran College for being a part of our Sunday worship service. The offering from Sunday benefitted LCA SA-NT District Chaplaincy ministries. Closing devotion on Saturday was led by Pastor Valdis Andersons, and closing worship on Sunday, which included the installation of Assistant Bishops and District Church Council members, was led by Pastor Tim Klein.

Pastor Tim Klein and Pastor Adrian Kitson presented the In Memoriam devotion where delegates were given the opportunity to remember those in the LCA who we had lost over the past year as well as those close to us who may no longer be with us. This was a very moving segment of the weekend.

Quorum

It was reported that a quorum was present to transact business on Saturday, however, with several late sign ins and people leaving throughout the day, this number fluctuated times. Unfortunately, a 2/3 quorum was not present in the room Sunday afternoon to complete the constitution changes proposed so a postal vote is being conducted to finalise these proposals.

Business

The Acknowledgement of Country was provided via video from students from Faith Lutheran College before an official welcome to the College from principal Steve Wilksch. Bishop David then introduced the District Office staff to delegates and prayed for their service to our church and district.

Business commenced with appointments of Chairpeople, minute takers and the electoral team for the weekend as well as the introduction of our chaplains. Delegates were reminded of the rules for transacting business.

The first proposals for the day were then presented in the form of updates to the SA-NT District Constitution and By-Laws. These were approved by the delegates present.

Stephen Kroker, the District Finance Consultant, presented the finance report and delegates approved the adoption of the 2020 audited financial statements of the District and the 2021 budget.

Bishop David presented a proposal to extend the call to Pastor Stephen Schultz as Assistant Bishop for Mission of the SA-NT District for a further four years until the end of 2025. This proposal was approved by delegates.

The proposal from Adelaide St Stephens congregation was presented on Saturday afternoon, along with 2 proposals from Tea Tree Gully St Johns congregation. After much debate and conversation, the Adelaide St Stephens proposal was narrowly passed, as was one of the two proposals from Tea Tree Gully. The second proposal from Tea Tree Gully was referred to the College of Bishops for further discussion and guidance.

Reports

LCA Bishop John Henderson reported to Synod about the church as a whole and spoke on the many issues facing the church today. Bishop David prayed for Bishop John and presented him with a gift to thank him for his support and ministry during his time as Bishop.

Pastor Tim Klein presented on behalf of the SA-NT District Church Council and provided an update on the District Office restructure which was approved at the 2018 District Convention.

Throughout Saturday, delegates heard updates from LCA Churchwide ministries, including the Executive office of the church, LCA Local Mission, Australian Lutheran College, Australian Lutheran World Service, Lutheran Education Australia and LCA International Mission. Prayers were offered for each of these ministries of our church and we thank the staff for their presentations.

Sunday, we received presentations from District ministries, including District Bishop, Assistant Bishop for Mission, Blueprint Ministries, Chaplaincy ministry, AbMinSA, Aged Care, Lutheran Disability Services, Lutheran Education SA/NT/WA and Lutheran Care. Prayers were offered and thank given to those that serve in these ministry areas of our church.

Nominations and Elections

Nominations for the positions of Bishop, 1st Assistant Bishop and 2nd Assistant Bishop of the LCA SA-NT District had been conducted at Pastors Conference and the following names were presented to synod:

Bishop	David Altus
1 st Assistant Bishop	Andrew Brook and Fraser Pearce
2 nd Assistant Bishop	Joel Cramer and Tim Ebbs

Bishop David was announced as Bishop of the LCA SA-NT District. Pastors Andrew Brook and Joel Cramer were elected by delegates in attendance and installed during the closing service of Convention.

Nominations were also presented for members of District Church Council as well as other District Committees. Those nominated were elected by delegates at Convention.

2021 LLL Mission Outreach Grant

It was a pleasure this year to present the 2021 LLL Mission Outreach Grant to Gawler Lutheran Church and Loxton St Peters Lutheran Church. Gawler Lutheran Church will use their grant to fund a pop-up café to enhance ministry and outreach to their community and school. Loxton St Peters Lutheran Church are using these funds to add to other money raised to put on an Illuminat display on the church for Christmas. This will be a great community outreach opportunity for the Loxton community and beyond. We wish both of these congregations all the best with their projects.

Thanks

A vote of thanks was offered to all who attended and to all who assisted with the organisation and staging of the District Convention of Synod.

If you would like to print a copy of the sermons presented during our worship services you can find these here:

- [Saturday opening worship – Bishop David Altus](#)
- [Saturday closing devotion – Pastor Valdis Andersons](#)
- [Sunday morning worship – Bishop John Henderson](#)
- [Sunday afternoon worship – Pastor Tim Klein](#)

SAVE THE DATE

2022
DISTRICT CONVENTION OF
SYNOD

14TH MAY 2022

Venue and other details to be confirmed
All enquiries to the SA-NT District Office
administration.sa-nt@lca.org.au or 08 8267 5211

 **LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA**  **SOUTH AUSTRALIA NORTHERN TERRITORY**