

Happenings



8th December 2020

What does Christmas mean for you?

Term 4 Week 9



Take a close look at this picture of a nativity scene from a church in the UK - What do you notice?

Jesus is missing! There was a story published a few years back about how baby Jesus was missing, presumed stolen from a local church in England. The people of the town were not happy and demanded Jesus be returned immediately, fearful that this atrocity would ruin Christmas for the town. I couldn't find a follow up story to see if Jesus had been returned – hopefully he was.

I find in my family that its easy to put the story of Jesus aside amid the busyness of December: of making plans, finding recipes, shopping online for the best Christmas present bargain, and putting up the lights. But then I finally hit Christmas eve and leading the church service and I'm reminded again: Christmas is about God's love for me and the world – that's what the baby Jesus means for me.

Sadly, I know this year will be the same crazy lead-in to December 25, just like every other year. But, I will try to slow down to stop and smell the roses, to lift my head up and see if Jesus is still in the scene, and take a deep breath remembering that Christmas is about God's love for me and the world. What does Christmas mean to you?

May you have a safe and happy Christmas and a blessed new year.

Pastor Jason Sander



IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday December 9th
Class Party Day

Farewell Assembly for leaving staff -
2:45 pm in the LIFE Centre

Thursday December 10th
Assembly - 2:30pm in the LIFE
Centre

End of Year Service - 7:00pm in the
LIFE Centre

Friday December 11th
Student Free Day

Thursday January 21st
Stationery Collection Day

REMINDER

Please return
Student Medical
Forms ASAP

From the Principal

Dear families,

The 2020 school year is about to draw to a close. What a remarkable year it has been; so very different to what any of us expected back in January on the first school day.

In a year when so many events have been modified, cancelled or postponed, I have been proud of the way in which we have creatively responded to make some of our annual events possible. Our Year 7 graduation, school concert, sports day, most camps and excursions, sporting carnivals, book week, transition visits and Mardi Gras, are events we have participated in or held. We pray that in 2021, some of those events we haven't been able to hold or join in, are able to take place.

Behind the scenes, many key pieces of work and tasks have been completed in 2020 that will continue to see Loxton Lutheran School shine well into the future. These include:

- New school website
- New School and ELC Prospectus (soon to be released)
- The purchase of a new school bus
- Passing of the new Constitution
- Introduction of Sentral, our student learning management system
- The roll out of laptops in upper primary and iPad's in JP and MP classes
- Specialist Learning Area Review
- The continued growth of the School Leadership Team
- Completion of minor capital works projects, such as the painting of the LIFE Centre
- Development of an Explicit Improvement Plan
- Completion of our School Master Plan
- Revised school fee and ELC fee structure, which will make our school even more

affordable for families

- Appointment of Lead Maths Teachers
- Master Planning

Year 7 Graduation

What a fantastic night it was last night, seeing the Year 7 students and their families at the graduation. The students all spoke exceptionally well and presented themselves magnificently. A huge congratulations to Mrs Bradtke on her organisation of the night, and a big thanks to those staff who assisted.

We will get a chance to farewell the Year 7's at both our closing assembly on Thursday at 2:30pm, and at our End of Year Service at 7:00pm on Thursday night.

Master Planning and BGA

As previously communicated, a Master Plan sets out the future directions of a school's facilities, learning spaces and aspirations. A Master Plan should reflect learning and teaching pedagogy and be reflective of strategic intentions of the school.

Recently, the School Board endorsed our Master Plan, after many months of conversation and collaboration. The first step in our Master Plan, is relocating the transportable buildings (Room 11 & 12) and building four new general learning areas (classrooms). These classrooms will be connected by a learning commons area, together with break-out decks for small group work, and newly developed landscaped areas.

We are currently in the process of applying for federal capital grant funding, known as Block Grant Authority. The BGA application process is highly competitive, with many Independent schools trying to get a slice of

From the Principal

the seven million dollars made available annually. There are six steps in the application process; the first of which is the Notice of Intent. We recently were advised that we have made it past this step and are now in the process of completing Stage 2 of the process, which is due in January.

We need BGA funding to help get the first stage of our Master Plan up and running. If we are successful, work would commence in 2022.

Our School Board are planning on sharing the entire Master Plan in 2021 with our school and broader community. Watch this space!

Farewells

This week, we farewell Di Boehm, Margaret Wormald, Broedy Jones, Jamie Clarke and Emma McGregor. Our students will have a chance to say goodbye at a special assembly at 2:45pm on Wednesday, in the LIFE Centre. Parents are welcome to attend, following COVID protocols of course. We will also farewell these staff members on Thursday evening at the End of Year Service.

Di will be retiring at the end of this year, having given 24 years of wonderful service to Loxton Lutheran School. She has been such an integral part of the community, carrying out so many important roles and duties. We thank Di for her outstanding career and wish her every blessing in retirement.

Margaret is farewelling LLS after 11 years of service. She has helped nurture a love of reading for so many children, with her knowledge of, and passion for books almost unrivalled. We wish Margaret every blessing on her teaching journey and thank her for her valued contribution to the school.

Broedy left us earlier this term to take up a full-time job with the Costa Group, after 8 years of service. Broedy played such an important role here at LLS, assisting with grounds and maintenance jobs. We wish Broedy every blessing for the future.

Jamie is leaving after being with us during the 2020 school year. Jamie has been outstanding; quickly learning and adapting to life as a teacher here at LLS. She has made many great friendships here and we wish her every success in the future.

Emma has been with us during terms 3 and 4, stepping into the Year 4/5 class. We have appreciated Emma's flexibility and conscientious effort to provide the students with continuity in their learning. We wish Emma every blessing.

We also extend a farewell to Heidi Lewis and Steph Nitschke, who have coordinated the Playgroup in recent years. We thank you for your valued contribution to the school community.

At the end of this school year, Loxton Lutheran School farewells not only the Year 7 students, but also a number of families whose partnership with the school, in a parent capacity at least, has come to an end. We would like to thank and acknowledge the parents, caregivers and families of the following students:

- Bailey Hahn
- Mitchell Hoye
- David Ewins
- Makayla Loxton
- William Nitschke
- Ella Holman
- Jaida Skinner
- Claire Ellbourn

From the Principal

- Tiarna Flight
- Cody Hennig
- Youssef Mansour
- Sienna Hentschke

End of Year Service

Is Thursday night at 7:00pm in the LIFE Centre. Families will need to sign in using the MyGov app with a sign-on sheet provided for those without a Smartphone. A COVID marshal will be present, ensuring we adhere to guidelines and protocols. Any family who hasn't yet called the office to RSVP, must do so ASAP.

Today, a message was sent to all families via the Sentral App, which included a link that you can pass on to any extended family members who won't be able to join us at the service. This link will allow them to view the service.

2021 School Priority Areas

Over the course of the year, the Leadership Team have been developing an Explicit Improvement Plan, which will set out some of our priorities for 2021. Focus areas for next year, in addition to what we already do, include student service and leadership, writing, staff wellbeing, and the explicit teaching of social and emotional learning and zones of regulation. 2021 is going to be busy.

Semester 2 Reports

These will be sent out via the Sentral App tomorrow. This is the first time we have sent reports home this way. Please advise if you need support accessing them.

Closing Message

My final message here tonight is for all within our school and broader community; thank you for your patience and understanding, in what has been a challenging year, with both the pandemic and many other battles that have taken place behind closed doors. Thank you all for your unwavering support for the school, for the students, for the staff, for each other, and for decisions that have been made, even when you have been frustrated by them, disappointed by them or not agreed with them. Not once, during the whole year, have I received a call or email with criticism or suggesting that things be done differently. I think this speaks volumes of the community and culture we have at LLS, which each and every one of you have helped to inform. I am extremely proud and grateful of our school and the people in it. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I wish you and your families every blessing this holiday period.

God bless,

Brad



SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

(Held fortnightly)

Thursday December 10th - 2:30pm in the LIFE Centre

SCHOOL WORSHIP

(Worship services are normally held alternate fortnights to assembly)

NEXT WORSHIP SERVICE

End of Year Service - Thursday
December 10th - 7:00pm in the LIFE Centre

PRAYER CORNER

This week we are praying for: -

- ◇ Hugh & Gilbert Smythe
- ◇ Mercedes Sparrow
- ◇ Georgia & Sophie Staben
- ◇ Paris & Jordon Stephens
- ◇ Declan & Lacey Swart
- ◇ Kara Trezise
- ◇ Shane Trezise
- ◇ Sophie & Jesse Tullett
- ◇ Addison & Sienna Uren
- ◇ Maddy Wehrmuller
- ◇ Hunter & Yasmin Westbrook
- ◇ Jesse White
- ◇ Sam & Ellie Williams
- ◇ Josh Wooldridge

and Mrs. Corrina Smart

ELC Director

CHURCH SERVICES

St Peter's Lutheran Church

Sunday December 13th 8.30am HC
10.30am HC
Sunday December 20th 8.30am HC
10.30am

Concordia Lutheran Church

Sunday December 13th 10.00am
Sunday December 20th 10.00am HC

Gifts of Love - Sharing is Caring

Want to help?

If you are feeling grateful and have the means to be generous this Christmas here are a few suggestions for you to consider.

Loxcare (Loxton's combined Christian Churches support organisation) - Pantry food items (no toys please)

ALWS Australian Lutheran world service (a national aid agency) who have many areas that they support with meaningful gift options through their Gifts of Grace. <https://www.alws.org.au/what-you-can-do/gifts-of-grace/>



There are also many other organisations in our town, nation and across the world, helping those who need it most.

Need Help?

We all need help from time to time. It's OK to get help. That's what living in community and sharing God's love is all about.

You may need physical or financial help, a listening ear, or to know someone cares and is praying for you.

If you need help of any kind, please don't hesitate to ask someone, a friend, a counsellor, an aid agency, or even us.

You don't have to suffer in silence.

We care.

If you need us, send an email to let us know what you need or we can be contacted to arrange a time to chat.

If it's an emergency - contact a helpline.

Leonie Sheffield leonies@loxton-lutheran.sa.edu.au

Amy Harvey (School Chaplain) amyh@loxton-lutheran.edu.au (Term time)

Jason Sander (School Pastor) jason.sander@stpetersloxton.org.au

May God's blessings of Love, Grace, Hope and Joy be yours in abundance this Christmas and throughout the holidays.

Leonie Sheffield

Student Support / Ministry & Mission Leader/ Teacher

BIBLE VERSES

Hope - Advent 3



And we know that
in all things God
works for the
good of those
who love
him...
Romans 8:28

T4 Week 8

T4 Week 9

But the
angel said
to them,
"Do not be
afraid. I
bring you
good news
that will
cause
great joy
for all the
people.

Luke 2:10



UNIFORM SHOP OPENING TIMES

Uniform Shop has re-opened
Friday afternoons from - 3:15 pm
to 3.45pm

*Uniform order forms can be
downloaded from the portal or
our website and emailed through
to the school office*

BUSINESS MANAGER HOURS

Not available Wednesdays

LLL SCHOOL BANKING

Every Tuesday

CANTEEN OPEN DAYS

Wednesday and Friday

JENNI HAMPSEL  COUNSELLOR

Growing resilience together

It has been a difficult year for many in our community, not just the impacts of COVID, restrictions and isolation.

For some Christmas and end of year activities may bring these losses and stressors to the fore again.

If you or someone you know may benefit from some extra assistance coping with what the year has thrown at us, counselling may be a helpful option.

Jenni offers counselling services from 2xcommunity locations in Loxton and works with all ages

She can be contacted on 0467801758, jennihampel@gmail.com or Jenni Hampel - Counsellor on Facebook.

Community Noticeboard



To request an appointment online, go to:
www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/dentalappointment
 For clinic locations, go to: www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/findyourclinic

Holiday Swim
ENROL NOW!
DECEMBER 14 - 18

Adelaide Hills
 Loxton
 Murray Bridge
 Waikerie
 Wallaroo

ROYAL LIFE SAVING
 SOUTH AUSTRALIA

HOLIDAY CLOSURE DATES

Berri Dental will be closed from Monday, 21 December 2020 and will re-open on Tuesday, 12 January 2021.

For any dental emergencies during this time, please call our emergency hotline number: 0437 733 350

We wish you all a safe and wonderful Christmas and New Years and we look forward to seeing your smiles in 2021!

Sachin, Coralie and Belinda
 (08) 8582 1944
 admin@berridentist.com.au

Berri Dental

Riverland Musical Society presents

MAMMA MIA!

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY
BENNY ANDERSSON & BJÖRN ULVAEUS
 AND SOME SONGS WITH STIG ANDERSON

BOOK BY
CATHERINE JOHNSON

ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED BY
JUDY CRAMER

DECEMBER 11 - 20
Chaffey Theatre, Renmark

Tickets available online at <https://www.countryarts.org.au/venues/chaffey-theatre/> or call (08) 8586 1800
Limited tickets available, get in quick!
 Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia).
 All performance materials supplied by Hal Leonard Australia

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School Board Chairperson: Mrs Jenni Hampel

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