



Lutheran
Students and
Friends presents ...

Grapevine

Volume 60, Issue 4 | October 2014

Meet LSF's New Executive Council!



Read all about the fondue and fun-filled events of Handover on page 5

Mid-Year Retreat 2014

Sean O'Mahoney

Well it has been a great year so far, having just joined LSF and attended some of our frivolous events. A highlight for me was the Mid-Year Retreat where the group travelled up to Mannum on the Murray River for a weekend in July. I myself, arriving late at the caravan park, found the crew frantic from travel fever settling in to the accommodation - an old pumphouse on the banks of the river. While fighting my hunger and study fatigue, we challenged ourselves to some card games before taking a walk around town late into the night.



A KotHA who's not prioritising tradition above all else?

Read the scandal on page 7

What do Christian ethics mean to you?

Cameron explores his
perspectives on page 8



Starting early on Saturday, Australian Lutheran College lecturer, Dr Dean Zweck, visited to talk about the persecution of South Australian Lutherans during the First World War. Despite the German settlers having always been peaceful and productive citizens, 'fear of the hun' took over the population, and many Germans were held in internment camps across the country. The stories of



Upcoming events:

See back page

Continued on page 4...

Captains' Log



Ahoy for the final time me-hearties! This final edition of the *Grapevine* for 2014 brings to us a time of reflection upon the LSF actions of not only the past few months, but also of the past sixty years. Navigating through history and tradition we find ourselves pondering the end of the university year together. Come and have a read about spiritual highs and lows, as

well as major moral dilemmas that we face in these last days.

Through many toils, tribulations and troubles, we would, as part of the crew onboard the *Grapevine*, like to bid our readers farewell. Bec, Emilie, and Cameron would like to thank all those who have contributed to this fine publication during this year of sometimes smooth

sailing, and other times choppy seas.

And at this point we will finally drop our nautical theme as we welcome in the editors for the next year of the *Grapevine* - Drew Wolfendale, Sean O'Mahoney, and Rebecca Kleinig.

May they bring you as much joy in your reading as we have.

God's richest blessings to all of you.

Safe voyages,

Emilie, Cameron, and Bec



Write for Grapevine

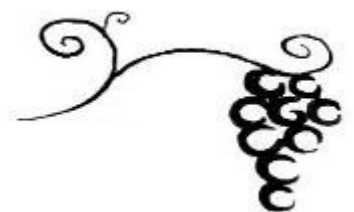
Articles should be about 150 and 800 words, but please enquire with us if you require more (we're surprisingly generous sometimes!) Word limits are negotiable. Letters to the editors should be about 100 to 200 words.

We'll take anything, including but not limited to poetry, prose, light hearted jabs at society, recipes, reviews and hard hitting serious journalism. We also love photos and tokens of fine art.

It doesn't matter if you aren't a talented writer—if you have something that you want to get out there, we'd love to hear about it.

So, go on and have your say!

If you would like to contribute to *Grapevine*, please send your articles and any other relevant details to the editors at grapevine@sa.lsf.org.au.



From the Chaplain



*Peter Miller, Tertiary
Chaplain*

As the academic year comes rapidly to a close, I well understand something of the tension of being a student. May I encourage you all to pace yourselves carefully and wisely as you undertake those remaining assignments, and

then prepare for and undertake examinations. Each of you will have particular ways in which you organise yourselves and look after your personal well-being. For some, examinations are no real cause for anxiety. For others, it is a very different case. Certainly – contrary to the truth of the Gospel – it is all *works* and *no grace*, which in one way highlights the overwhelming treasure of the Gospel, because to be a student is truly a worthwhile, noble, honourable vocation in itself, irrespective of how the world assesses one (Philippians 4:8). You are in receipt of the gift of learning, and at the same time, equipped for gifting your

wisdom, insight and knowledge to the world.

So, be assured that I am praying for you and all students at this time, feeling a close affinity for you as you work hard in the coming weeks. May I direct you to further words from St Paul:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with a thankful heart, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)

God Bless!

LSF SA Inc. needs to ratify the proceedings of Handover (AGM), during which time changes to our Constitution and By-Laws may also be made—these will be important to ensure the sustainable future of LSF SA.

Notice of Special General Meeting: Ratification of Handover and Changes to the Constitution and By-Laws

We need to make quorum, so we encourage all student members and all other interested parties to attend Expire!, details on the back page calendar, so that this may be achieved. In the event that quorum is not met at this event, the Special General Meeting shall be postponed until National Retreat as advertised on page 12, on the 3rd of January at 1:30 pm.

Proposed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws will be communicated to you through your e-vine subscription address and our website. Please look out for them and give us your feedback.

Additionally, if you are a current student and can fill one of our council positions, please contact Cameron at president@sa.lsf.org.au

Mid-Year Retreat 2014₁



Continued from page 1...

torture and murder of political prisoners during the war gave us insight into a side of Australian history that is often forgotten.

Knowing about the strong faith of the Lutherans during this time gave us confidence to face some of the challenges that we might be facing in our own lives. Studies, family commitments and the like, while not life-threatening, are all important things that we need to face with grace and bravery. As we again enter a time of conflict in our world, we must remember to keep everything in perspective. Never should we assume bad intentions because of someone's 'race' or beliefs.

Instead, as Christians, we should show love and sympathy to those rejected by society.

Later on Saturday, we discussed examples of persecution happening today (like discrimination against cyclists!), and talked about our own experiences of being persecuted or looked down upon for our faith. We found that we have all been bullied and rejected by some people because of our belief in Christ. Often we come across stern anti-Christian material with convincing arguments or popular support that is hard to challenge. Sometimes we are hit with a provocative question designed to prove to the asker that Christianity is really bad. For me, the hardest part is knowing that your answer may turn that person further away from Christ. This happens a lot in the world, but knowing that we can talk about it with other Christians strengthens our perseverance. We must remember that love and forgiveness is at the heart

of what Jesus preached, therefore, living our lives with these morals is the best answer we can give.





Alexander Barratt

At Handover Dinner, LSFers gather to make the arduous decision to elect a new Executive Council and various auxiliary positions that will shape the destiny of Lutheran Students and Friends for the course of a year. How does one maintain a level of sanity when beholding this terrifying and fate-altering task? Two words: Fancy Dress.

St Stephen's Lutheran Church in the city was visited by dirndl-wearing German girls serving food, an epic duel between a wizard and Link from the *Legend of Zelda* and SpongeBob SquarePants with a desire to lead.



But - you ask - what about the food? Did I not mention the fondue?

In a departure from tradition (gasp), instead of the usual multi-course meal we dined upon several delicious (and in one case hilarious) fondues, both savoury in cheese form and sweet in chocolate form. Turns out mozzarella fondue is not the easiest thing to get out of a fondue pot, let alone eat.

Outgoing President Emilie Traeger provided a presidential report which kicked off the serious business of the evening. Voting was undertaken with zeal by all, with the exceptional assistance of the hall closet from which all candidates had the opportunity to come out, whether victoriously or not. On the matter of election the Executive Council was elected with vacancies left in the positions of Worship and Communications Officers and Treasurer. Cameron Seidel was elected as the new President, with Rebecca Kleinig as Events Officer, Sean O'Mahoney as Secretary and Drew Wolfendale as Keeper of

Handing It All Over



the Historical Artefacts.

The formalities concluded with the presentation of the Andreas Pattichis Memorial Shield to the winners of this year's 500 Tournament: Cameron Seidel and Alexander Barratt. In high spirits the LSFers celebrated with toasts to the new LSF year.



Incoming council members wreak havoc minutes into their tenure while outgoing councillors look on with...concern.



LSF SA Celebrates 60 Years!

Adam Kauschke

The budding historians among you may have noticed that this year marked sixty years since the creation of LSF. This was cause for a celebration, I decided!

On Sunday 12 October, a group of about 30 chaplains, students, graduates and friends of LSF met over afternoon tea at Adelaide Lutheran Sports Club to mark the occasion.

The event proved to be a fantastic opportunity for LSFers of all ages to remember the work which LSF has done since its registration as a society at Adelaide Uni in 1954. The quality of LSF being able to bring together students of all backgrounds and make them feel welcome was emphasised when the formal aspect of the afternoon took place.

Some of those in attendance also took the opportunity to share their experiences of when they were in LSF. While I find the values of LSF to have remained unchanged since 1954, it was certainly not hard to see how the experience for students has changed over time!

Alas, port did not make it to the afternoon tea, but 500 was played and Fred and Freda were in presence as part of a display of LSF paraphernalia.

I found it to be an enjoyable and relaxing afternoon and I hope everyone else thought the same.

LSF has had the greatest impact on my life possible. My parents met at LSF (at National Retreat, no less) back some time in the 80's (or 70's?), ages ago anyway! So I have LSF to thank for my existence!

Lydia Braunack-Mayer

I was a 'spiritual advisor' to LSF from its beginnings. I began in 1954, or was it 1955? Lots of very fond memories. I had special regard for Dr Harry Harmon who served as 'spiritual advisor' to the 'other side', e.g. the ELCA. He firmly opposed any move to set up a separate organisation, even though the two churches were still some years away from union.
Rolph Mayer

I remember with gratitude the LSF gatherings at Flinders Uni in the late 1960's with John Sabel as the inspirational chaplain. I felt it was fine to be able to invite friends from other denominations to join in. I also remember the St Stephen's services with gratitude...And Robin and Dorothy still make good music together now - so many years later. What a gift!
Lois Kupke (nee Ross)

I've had some fabulous times with LSF! ... I really enjoyed the late night deep and meaningfuls at LSF camps, being free to talk about God and life's issues with people, having fun ... LSF and chaplaincy got me through some of the darkest times of my life too ... and I feel I owe LSF

and chaplaincy a lot for the help, support and encouragement people gave. So I hope LSF (hopefully chaplaincy too!) continue strongly for many more years to come. Thanks heaps!
Helen Peucker (1991 - 2010ish on and off)

I have particularly enjoyed the company of many LSFers since I first came across the group in 2006. I grew to love the inclusive nature of the group, particularly through 500, Camps, MOSH events, Coffee Nights/Fright!s/Friday Nights etc. I am thankful for the time I have had with the group.
Adam Kauschke

What an enjoyable and great privilege to be here this afternoon to the LSF 60th Anniversary of LSF! The best quote for the afternoon was Rolph Mayer, quoting Martin Marty on his recent visit to Australia. The quote went roughly like this: "We do not need to fear or worry about the future, because it is unknown, and who knows what God might have around the corner?" This includes the future of LSF.

Mike Pietsch, Chaplain, 1994-2012





Adam Kauschke

Well, that was my year as the Keeper of the Historical Artefacts. While I appreciated the opportunities to put together an afternoon tea, 500 tournament and, incidentally, a quiz night, the position enabled me to think more deeply about traditions.

When it comes to traditions, what matters? What is important? Why do we do the same things as time and time before? The answers may be brief and generally based upon

Doing Away With Tradition

the reasons of pleasure, routine and faith.

If you ask me, pleasure is the most important motivator for maintaining traditions. We may follow a tradition based off what we believe, or out of sheer habit. However, if we are only meeting our traditions because we think we *have to* without enjoyment or satisfaction being obtained, then we really need to consider why we are going to trouble for them.

Traditions may also depend on our ability to carry them out.

In my time as KotHA I have witnessed a reduced ability for LSFers to undertake the work it has conducted for many years. This is due to several factors – quite notably a decline in membership and chaplaincy assistance which was enjoyed

for so long. These factors have created a strain on the organisation’s ability to maintain the status quo.

Many of these traditions, while still enjoyed, are protected by our organisation’s constitution and by-laws. These include camps, quiz nights, Fright!s and worship services. While this ensures that LSF works to meet its goals of fellowship and theological inquiry for students, the downside is that it is challenging and time consuming to break away from these traditions for what is sustainable and wanted by Lutheran students.

While I expect the new Council to embark on constitutional changes, in the short and medium terms the activities and services provided by LSF will need to be cut back to a bare minimum. Whether this means fewer events of a scaled-back nature, collaboration with other Lutheran and youth bodies or a radically new and different calendar of events, is a matter for the Council to consider.

If society judges our mission is be worthwhile of maintaining, we will find a way to make it happen. Whether or not we retain tradition in the process is only of secondary importance.

More from the 60th...





Cameron Seidel

Can I have (Judeo-)Christian values and morality without Christ? Putting arguments about relevance today and the like aside, let us take a casual stroll down the road of Christian morality. Okay, do not steal, sounds good; do not murder, cool, we can do this. In fact, our secular society owes a lot to these ideals. Yet as we walk further down the road with the Teacher, he starts hitting our nerves. Someone hits you on the cheek? Let them hit you on the other one.* Hate your brother or sister? You might as well have killed them. Someone wrongs you yet again? Time to forgive again. Your enemies, the ones who insult, oppress and even persecute you? Treat them well, pray for them and even stick your own neck out for them. We realise this road leads somewhere we do not want to go. For the Teacher, this road was a carefully engineered form of torture we know as the Roman cross. Terrifying, isn't it?

If I'm trying to apply Christian morality without a Christian theology, what does that leave

me with? We put our stake in the ground and say "No further! This is the last time I will forgive you. I will give up this much for you, but if I give any more, there'll be none left for me." Maybe this is all I can ask of another person in – but not necessarily limited to – a secular context. Maybe we realise that if we all lived like this then all would be well, or at least better. We say nice things about these do-gooders whose legacy outlives them. Yes, their memory will live on, at least for a while, but is that really enough? If the world won't change, at least in time for me, why shouldn't I 'get my own' while I still can?

For me, I need Christ at the centre of my Christian values and morality. To be frank, I have few illusions about the fact that I often go to great lengths to avoid suffering; I stick my stake in the ground and hang on rather than go along where the road is leading.

However, I have this. I know that I can ultimately take these teachings seriously (even if I don't want to know about it right now), because Christ has done it for us. It is the resurrection, the chief of miracles and proof of many promises, which can keep us going. I can dare to trust that whatever happens in life, whatever I might forgo or suffer, it will be all worthwhile in the end. Paul sums this up quite well in Romans 8:18 – "I consider that our present sufferings are not

-ian Morality

worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us." [NIV]. Finally, when it comes to forgiveness, I have access to a 'bank account' that won't run empty. Real forgiveness has a cost for the forgiver (as opposed to just excusing, i.e. "you're right mate"). But in all of this let's not forget the promises for the temporal life (e.g. Matt. 6), and much more importantly, the Holy Spirit.

So can we have our Christian values and morals without Christ? I think not, because they will *let us down* on their own. We need good law for order in our society, but it isn't that simple. Only the shoulders of Christ – more than just the Teacher – can bear the crushing weight of God's Law. Furthermore, as Christians, we need the miraculous hope of the Gospel and the power of the Holy Spirit to take up his yoke and follow him.

Post Script: I am not advocating poor self-care. That is extremely important, as I have been slowly learning more about recently. For the cynics, this is something we are actually commanded to do for ourselves as well as for the good of others!

*Questions of "What did Jesus actually mean here?" and "How hyperbolic was he being", granted.

A Mundane Life With Christ

Rebecca Kleinig

I can't tell yet whether or not I have actually enjoyed my mid-semester break. Of course, nothing will live up to the last university break that I had, in which I decided to gallivant around Europe for five weeks, but I digress. This time three months ago I was discovering areas of the world I had never seen before, meeting people I never thought I would, and reuniting with friends who I hadn't seen in two years. This break I have spent time procrastinating about homework, increasing my solitaire win percentage, and becoming increasingly frustrated with The Legend of Zelda franchise.

This time away from university has once again taught me that life can be mundane, and it's at this time that I usually question how one's faith can actually be relevant to these mind-boggling periods of nothing. However, I believe that the average times of life can serve to be one of the highest points of spiritual growth, despite how I often feel that I am sitting on a spiritual "low".

Generally when we think of spiritual growth, we think of times of working through extreme hardship with Christ. Alternatively we think of times when we revel in the joy of Christmas and Easter, or those amazing highs that so many young Christians experience during and after camps such as Christian Life Week.

As a jealous human, I see so

many peers spreading the joy of Christ's love with the enthusiasm that only comes with a spiritual high. I'm truly glad that so many people constantly have these joyous moments, but if you're like me and haven't had any of these opportunities lately, you're wondering whether these enlightened moments of God's astounding grace will visit you as you sit on the couch eating Doritos.

A wise woman once told me that being on a spiritual low is not an accurate representation of the strength of one's faith. She drew a line on a page, with the left end being the spiritually "low" end, and the right end the spiritually "high". She proceeded to continually trace back and forth over the line, tracing to the right end during good times, and drawing back over the line to the left end during the mundane times and times of struggle. I was left with the image of a thick heap of black lines. Sure, it may not have looked pretty, but a life where faith is perpetually suspended on a "high" leaves one thin line on a piece of paper. It's much easier to break a twig than it is to break a branch.

During every period of our lives, the grace and comfort of God is there to strengthen us. I have continually found comfort in the words of 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, which reads: *"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed"*. I feel as if my struggle with the mundane Christian life has nothing to do



with hardship, yet nor do I feel as if God has given me any specific revelations. Yet despite fears that I'll forever be stuck in limbo, I am still growing in Christ.

Another analogy I like to use to describe my faith is like a song that is continually playing. Sometimes there's a wicked guitar solo that just makes you feel like you are on top of the world. Other times there's a second rate clarinet failing dismally to follow the melody and to stay in tune.¹ But there is the continual beat of the drum throughout the entire song.

So, during mundane times, I try to go to church each Sunday. I talk with those around me about my life in Christ. I enjoy the small moments where God shines light on a rainy day. Slowly but surely, I feel myself tracing the line to the right side of the page. Maybe a life with Jesus is being grateful of his continual presence and drum beat, even in times of simply sitting on the couch. Maybe he's even got some salsa for those Doritos to share with you.

¹Rebecca has nothing against clarinet players. In fact, being a clarinet player herself, she encourages all those interested to give the instrument a try.

A Ploughshare or a Sword

Emilie Traeger modern warfare, I see as simply unjustifiable.

Isaiah 2:4 "He will settle arguments between nations. They will pound their swords and their spears into rakes and shovels; they will never make war or attack one another." (CEV)

International politics is not my strongest suit, I must admit, but with the ongoing turmoil in the Middle East and the political rhetoric surrounding the ethics of intervention I have been thinking: When is violence justified? Is war justifiable?

I know we could start the discussion with a "they started it" approach, but is that good enough?

As Christians, is there ever a time when we should allow ourselves to be drawn into violent conflicts, or to respond to violence with violence?

Biblically, there's a fair bit of violence to go round, particularly in the Old Testament. But when Jesus rocks up and coins the well-known phrase 'turn the other cheek', how are we to deal with the contradictions the Bible presents us with?

As I mentioned, politics is not my strong suite and nor is theology. Still greater than that is that voicing an opinion on a topic is a particularly difficult thing for me to do. But I think you will agree with me when I say that war is bad. Apart from motivating nations to develop various technologies, the death and destruction caused, particularly to innocent bystanders in

Does that mean that we are not to defend ourselves? Of course not. However, to defend until the point of killing many people, especially those who do not pose a threat to us, is not okay.

This is tricky stuff though, because, if we reflect upon past conflicts as well as present and imminent ones, questions must be asked to seek justification for war. At the commencement of World War II, Germany posed a significant threat to many European nations. The United Kingdom's approach to their declaration of war involved a number of steps before the commencement of violent conflict. Following common conflict resolution principles (Matthew 18:15-17), ascribed to those in both Christian and non-Christian circles, those opposed to Germany's actions tried to talk it out with them. But what happens when the other party doesn't want to talk? Do you keep talking to them in the hope that soon they'll understand your perspective and reply? As was the case in WWII, you keep talking to them until they invade Poland and then you intervene because Poland cannot defend itself.

In a modern context, should we, Australia, be intervening into the political affairs of the Middle East, requesting to intervene rather than being requested? Do we have the



authority to decide that someone needs our assistance even before they have asked?

I think that's really what it all comes down to. We as humans yearn for power and control. If someone else threatens the systems we have created or seek to uphold, we want to stop them and maintain our order. Biblically, there are a number of approaches that we might take to issues presented in this modern world, but in combining Biblical approaches with human ethics we come to rest upon the Gospel. Jesus preaches a strong message for those who do not believe in Him, yet he taught us, his followers, to teach the world of His message of love and peace. To do this we must lead by example.

Honestly, I'm not really sure what 'message' this article leaves you with, but I hope it may have helped you to begin thinking about your role, your *voice*, and how you approach issues like these.

Joel 3:9-10 "Get ready for war! Be eager to fight. Line up for battle and prepare to attack. Make swords out of plows and spears out of garden tools. Strengthen every weakling." (CEV)

Grapevine asks:

In the last issue (59:4) we asked for you to tell us:

What is the best habitat for a pet rock?

Here's what you said:

Alexander Barratt : It would depend on the breed of the rock. My favourite pet rock is kept by my bedroom door, where it fulfils the role of doorstep, but others live on my desk and bookcase as ornamental rocks.

Emilie Traeger : In a

rockery, amongst the shrubberies.

Tanya Wittwer : under a pile of smelly socks and undies which is gradually inching itself underneath the bed.

Next edition we would like to know:

What is your favourite piece of Christian literature excluding the Bible?

Answer this well *and* maybe even write us an article to be published in the next edition!

The Fifth Column of Fred the Fish



This is the fifth column of Fred the Fish, being the fifth column of excerpts of the most unholy books of Fred being reported in Grapevine.

I saw Fred swim backwards. Maybe Hanna replaced him with a mechanical fish and he malfunctioned. So is Fred really alive? The plot thickens.

Book I, 2001

Social Experiment: Sit down with a group of people, pretend you know them and then say in a casual way "let's all jump". Then stand up and start jumping - record reactions. Can do this with individuals too.

Book II, C. 2003

Nothing saves your soul like egotism,.

Book IV, 2013

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INTENTIONALLY LEFT
WRITTEN ON

Book IV, 2014

A Muse

Emilie Traeger reflection I, on behalf of all current LSFers and those approaching this time of change, would like to request your thoughts and prayers so that we may follow the best path God provides to us to continue to seek the best provision of social and spiritual support to be provided to tertiary students and all of the young adults out there who can be so easily disenchanted and disengaged with the church as they enter the 'real world' following the secluded safety of high school life.

I just wanted to take this moment, as outgoing president, vigneron, and all things official, I guess, to thank all of you who have shown your support for LSF throughout the past year or more.

We're going through a fairly big time of transition at the moment, as you may have noticed through the reposition of constitutional changes and a slimmer than usual council.

During this time of review and

reflection I, on behalf of all current LSFers and those approaching this time of change, would like to request your thoughts and prayers so that we may follow the best path God provides to us to continue to seek the best provision of social and spiritual support to be provided to tertiary students and all of the young adults out there who can be so easily disenchanted and disengaged with the church as they enter the 'real world' following the secluded safety of high school life.

Thank you for your support in all these things.

November

Expire!

Friday November 28th
Jono's House, 16 Middle Ave, Paralowie
From 8pm onwards
Come celebrate the year with us!

January

Inspire!

Friday & Saturday
January 16th-17th

District Office, 137 Archer St, North Adelaide
From 6pm onwards
Review of 2014 and planning for 2015

December

The Menagerie of Summer Heroes (MOSH) returns with fun to suit everyone!

For this and much more information, visit www.sa.lsf.org.au* or get notifications from us: [facebook.com/LSFSAus](https://www.facebook.com/LSFSAus)

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A Special General Meeting will take place at Expire! and if quorum is not met, National Retreat. See page 3 for more details.

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Feedback and contributions are welcome from Lutherans, students, friends and any other interested people. *Grapevine* reserves the right to edit for length and style.

*The website is down at time of publication, expected to be back up by November—for information in the meantime please contact us or see Facebook.