

Wodonga Lutheran Parish

2024

AGM

Book of Reports



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Agenda

Date:	14 th April 2024	Time:	10.45am
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Item	Description	Responsible
1.	Welcome and introductions	Chairperson
2.	Attendance Sheet for Voting Members	Secretary
3.	Apologies	Secretary
4.	Opening prayer	Pastor Josh
5.	Adoption of minutes of previous AGM and special meetings	Chairperson
6.	Review of actions from previous annual general meeting	Chairperson
7.	Parish Chairperson's report	Chairperson
8.	Congregational Pastor report	Pastor Josh
9.	Statistics Report	Admin Officer
10.	Treasurer's Report	Treasurer
11.	Acceptance of the audited financial statements.	Treasurer
12.	Approval of the 2024 Budget	Treasurer
13.	Church Building Committee report	Tim McInnes
14.	Ladies Fellowship report	Margaret Burkert
15.	Music Coordinators report	Susan Edwards
16.	Parish/College Mission and Ministry Report	Jenny Simboras
17.	Worship Committee Report	Rhonda Keller
18.	Pastoral Assistants Report	Sheryl Parsons & Sue Housego
19.	Acceptance of annual report	Chairperson
20.	NEW BUSINESS	
21.	Appointment of the auditor	Treasurer
22.	Vote of thanks to those retiring positions: Parish Councillors	
23.	Elections	Pastor Josh
24.	Meeting close	

Conflict of Interest and Declaration:

“Any member participating in this Annual General Meeting is required to let the Chair know if they have any perceived or known Conflicts of Interest as per the items listed in the Agenda for this meeting. This will be noted in the Minutes”

Declaration of Attendance and Acceptance of Apologies

- Members in attendance to sign the Attendance Sheet provided.
- Acceptance of Apologies



2023 AGM Minutes

Wodonga Lutheran Parish

Minutes of the AGM held at St John's Luth. Church on Sunday, 5th March 2023

1. WELCOME

Chairperson, Jenny Simboras, declared the meeting open for this year's AGM at 10.50am. Jenny welcomed all present and announced that, having a quorum, this is a fully constituted meeting.

2. ATTENDANCE SHEETS

As per the voting requirements for the AGM, eligible voting members must register by signing the Attendance Sheet. According to our membership list 19 eligible voting members are needed to form a quorum, and since there were 40 signatures, a quorum was established.

3. APOLOGIES

There were 12 apologies listed on the Attendance Sheets and a further 2 apologies came from the floor as follows: Ron Asquith, Sharon Paech.

4. OPENING PRAYER: Ps Joshua Muller prayed for the Holy Spirit's presence and God's blessing upon the AGM.

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

Motion: That the Minutes of the previous AGM, held on 6th March 2022 at St John's Lutheran Church, Wodonga, are a true and correct record of that meeting.

Moved: Ingrid Harder **Seconded:** Kerrie Donker **AIF Carried**

6. BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 Updating the Parish Constitution (Addendum 1):

REASON FOR THE PROPOSAL

Extract of Minutes from Previous AGM – 8.3 Update WLP Constitution

- It has been pointed out that the current WLP Constitution is not in alignment with the LCA and LCAVD constitutional requirements, plus it's not compliant with the charities regulator (ACNC) for its governance.
- The Chairperson indicated that it is too arduous for one person to update the Constitution, therefore a Constitution Committee will be established as soon as possible.

- The implementation of the Constitution C'tee was referred to Parish Council.
- The Parish Secretary was asked to respond to Phill Edwards's questions by email.

Constitution Committee

As this was a huge task several members volunteered to review the LCA Model Constitution and revise it according to the Parish's needs. The committee included Sue Housego, Marie Hill and Claire Roennfeldt, and together they revised the Model Constitution into a document that could be presented to the Parish for adoption.

Mr. Phill Edwards provided extensive feedback on the Draft Constitution that was distributed to members, which included a proposed amendment, as follows:

MOTION: 'That the resolution to accept the Draft Constitution for Wodonga Lutheran Parish be amended to rewriting the draft as a Congregational Model and returning to our original name of *Saint (St) John's Lutheran Church, Wodonga.*'

Proposed by: Phill Edwards **Motion** lapsed due to Original Motion being passed

THE VOTING PROCESS

The above amendment can only be taken after the original motion (*below*) has been moved and seconded.

(Original) MOTION: That the current Constitution and By Laws of the Wodonga Lutheran Parish (29/10/1999) be **repealed**, and that the Draft Constitution, based on the LCA Model Constitution (2018), be **adopted** as the Parish's new Constitution under the name of **Wodonga Lutheran Parish**; with the following corrections:

Under Section 8.5.4

- change 8.5.5.1 to 8.5.4.1
- change 8.5.5.2 to 8.5.4.2
- change 9.4.1.1.1 to 8.5.4.2.1
- change 9.4.1.1.2 to 8.5.4.2.2

Under Section 9.6.2

- change 9.9.5.1 to 9.6.2.1
- change 9.9.5.2 to 9.6.2.2
- change 9.9.5.3 to 9.6.2.3
- change 9.9.5.4 to 9.6.2.4
- change 9.9.5.5 to 9.6.2.5
- change 9.9.5.6 to 9.6.2.6

Under Section 9.9.6

- change 9.9.5.7 to 9.9.6.1
- change 9.9.5.8 to 9.9.6.2
- change 9.9.5.9 to 9.9.6.2
- change 9.9.5.9 to 9.9.6.3
- change 9.9.5.10 to 9.9.6.4
- change 9.9.5.11 to 9.9.6.5

Moved: Ingrid Harder

Seconded: Claire Roennfeldt

Continued >

DISCUSSION

Chairperson listed why Parish Council chose to keep *Wodonga Lutheran Parish* –

- The LCA Model Constitution allows for a single point parish to exist;
- Changing the name to *St John's Lutheran Church, Wodonga* would mean having to change banking and other legal documents which would incur much expense;
- The Call documents issued to Ps Joshua were in the name of Wodonga Lutheran Parish, not St. Johns Lutheran Church, Wodonga. Need to call Ps Joshua again?
- *St John's Lutheran Church* will be displayed at the front of the new church.

Phill Edwards stated his reasons for changing to *St John's Lutheran Church (SJLC)*–

- That according to the LCA Model Constitution definitions a parish consists of two or more congregations which are served by one or more pastors;
- That people would not connect Wodonga Lutheran Parish with St Johns Lutheran Church. By reverting to SJLC, the congregation would be re-connecting with its historic identity so past members and their families could make the connection; especially seeing that the 175th anniversary of SJLC founding is near (1874-2024).

Phill Edwards – re WLP's Draft Constitution.

- Phill stated that there were over 1,900 tracked changes made to the Template of the LCA Model Constitution.
- Claire Roennfeldt (Constitution C'tee) responded that only a few minor changes were made, and the only addition was WLP's **Ministry and Mission** partnership with Victory Lutheran College.
- Claire R also stated that WLP's final draft of the Constitution had been forwarded to the VicDist Office for review and response.

Following the discussion, the Chairperson put the **Original MOTION** 'to **repeal** the current constitution and **adopt** the WLP's Draft Constitution with corrections' to a vote. **Results: For – 38 Against – 2 Carried**

➤ **As a result the MOTION foreshadowed by Phill Edwards (p.2) lapsed.**

6.2 PROPOSALS re VLC SUBDIVISION, DEEDS, and CONSTRUCTION (ADDENDUM 2A, 2B):

Subdivision: Deed of Trust and Deed of Acknowledgement

Tim McInnes, Chairperson of the Redevelopment Committee, spoke to the proposals.

REASON FOR THE PROPOSALS

Originally, the Wodonga Parish only had an interest in some of the land on behalf of Victory Lutheran College, not the whole 10.07Ha. This is due to the way the land was purchased and funded at the time. The first parcel of land was purchased in 1992 from the **Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation (AWDC)**, and in 1996 another parcel was purchased from the AWDC. These two parcels of land were amalgamated into one 10.07Ha property, designated as PS401805.

This parcel of land was acknowledged in a **Declaration of Trust** signed by the then VicDist President, David Stolz, on 7/12/1992, meaning that the VicDist would hold the property in Trust for the Wodonga Parish, as the parish is not a legal entity and cannot own property.

However, since Victory Lutheran College (VLC) and St John's Lutheran Church (WLP) are to reside on the same parcel of land, and since VLC cannot be seen to financially support WLP (conditions for State and Federal funding), the land on which WLP will stand (Lot 1) must be subdivided from VLC (Lot 2). As a result, a new **Deed of Acknowledgement** has been drawn up by the VicDist and is to be signed by WLP (following a special meeting of St John's), VLC, and the VicDist. The Title for the church (Lot 1) will belong to WLP, and Title for the College (Lot 2) will belong to VLC/LEVNT. As previously, the LCA VicDist will hold the Title for St John's Lutheran Church, West Wodonga, in Trust.

PROPOSAL 1

1a. That Wodonga Lutheran Parish give permission to LCAVD *District Property Trust* to alter the current **Deed of Trust (1992)** held on behalf of the Parish (Title PS401805) known as Lot 42, and being 10.07Ha in area.

1b. That a new **Deed of Trust** be agreed to, following the new subdivision being approved, with Lot 1 and Lot 2 being as proposed in the Plan of Subdivision PS830642D.

Proposal 1 was put to the vote:

Moved: Carolyn Kiss **Seconded:** John Donker **AIF** **Carried**

PROPOSAL 2

2a. That Wodonga Lutheran Parish (WLP) in conjunction with Victory Lutheran College (VLC), undertake to subdivide a parcel of land known as Plan of Subdivision PS830642D, with Lot 1 being 3789m² in area, and a **Deed of Acknowledgement** be agreed to and signed.

2b. That LCAVD agree to a new **Deed of Trust** over Lot 1 in the name of Wodonga Lutheran Parish, and Lot 2 (PS830642D) will then be transferred to College ownership ***together with all mortgage liabilities.***

DISCUSSION

- There was much discussion about the possibility of residual debt from VLC the Parish might have to carry as a result of the subdivision.
- **John Thompson** (VLC Principal) assured the meeting given that (1) VLC has been Incorporated since 2022, and that (2) the ***Deed of Acknowledgement*** and *revised Deed of Trust* (co-signed by the WLP, VLC and VicDist), WLP will not inherit any debts from the subdivision of Lot 42 (VLC) into the proposed 2 Lots.
- So, in order to dispel any concerns of Parish indebtedness, and for the sake of clarity, Tim McInnes suggested that the phrase, ***'together with all mortgage liabilities'***, be inserted to Proposal 2b. There was general agreement to this.

Proposal 2 was put to the vote:

Moved: Claire Roennfeldt **Seconded:** Kerrie Donker **AIF** **Carried**

REDEVELOPMENT: EXPENDITURE (ADDENDUM 2B)

REASON FOR PROPOSAL

As the new church construction on Drage Road, West Wodonga, progresses the Parish will be required to make progressive payments to Alatalo Bros. Therefore, Parish Council seeks permission to make these payments without having to pass a motion every time a payment is required – according to the following motion.

MOTION: That Parish Council be given authority to make progressive payments to Alatalo Bros as required, without having to seek permission before every payment. Also, that the Parish Treasurer will inform Parish members of the installments that have been made.

The **Motion** was put to the vote:

Moved: John Donker **Seconded:** Noreen Kelly **For:** 30, **Against:** 2 **Carried**

7. CORRESPONDENCE *(this item was inadvertently omitted from the Book of Reports)*

HISTORIC IN: *(omitted from the 2022 AGM BoR)*

Email – 20/02/2022 from Phill Edwards re Parish AGM and Book of Reports

Attachments: Parish AGM 2022 Submission, Model Constitution Draft

Email – 21/3/2022 from Phill Edwards re Business Case for the Construction of the new church – presented to AGM by Tim McInnes

Email – 21/3/2022 from Phill Edwards to Tim McInnes re Business Case including responses by Tim McInnes

CURRENT IN:

Email – 11/2/2023 from Phill Edwards re Submissions to Parish Council and AGM.

Request to Parish Council Secretary that his correspondence be recorded in the minutes;

Requests to AGM: for a Business Plan for the new Church, Table Contracts, Business Case for a Manse, and Financial Management Plan for proceeds of St Marks sale.

Email – 12/2/2023 from Phill Edwards re Submissions to Parish Council and AGM

Attachments: The proceeds of St Marks, Constitution Submission to the AGM, Constitution Model Draft Markup Listing, Constitution Congregational Model Draft

Email – 15/2/2023 from Stephen Mildred to Jenny Simboras re Use of Proceeds of sale of St Marks for manse

Email – 15/2/2023 from Stephen Mildred to Jenny Simboras re Proceeds of Sale – Yackandandah Property

HISTORIC OUT: *(omitted from 2022 AGM BoR)*

Email – 11/3/2022 to Phill Edwards from Ps Ernie Kiss responding to various questions re Parish AGM and Book of Reports

CURRENT OUT:

Email – 11/2/2023 to Phill Edwards re Request that his correspondence be recorded in the AGM minutes

8. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT (Jenny Simboras)

- **God's Blessing:** Prayers for a new Pastor, lifting of COVID restrictions with f2f worship, construction of a new worship facility, have been answered.
- **New Pastor:** Pastor Joshua Muller was installed by Ass't. Bishop Ps Matthias Prenzler, in a service held at Luther Hall (VLC); Many visitors came from neighbouring parishes (Vic & NSW) and from Ps Josh's former parish in SA. Greetings from Bp Lester Priebbenow, former parish pastors, also from family and friends of Ps Josh were read out.
- **Parish Council:**
 - The thanks of the Parish go to Paul Vogelsang, outgoing **Parish Treasurer**, for a job well done.
 - Sincere thanks go to John Donker and Tim McInnes who saved the Parish much money by repairing several **maintenance** issues.
 - Many thanks to Claire Roennfeldt, Sue Housego, and Marie Hill who reviewed the **Model Constitution**. Thanks also to Phill Edwards for his input. The Draft Constitution will be put to the Parish at the forthcoming AGM.
 - Updating the Parish's **Governance Handbook** is a work in progress, and it's planned to have it fully revised in the near future.
 - Thanks go to the **Parish Secretary** for his support, and being the 'go-to' tech person for relocating computers and phones especially when the Parish Office moved to VLC. Ps Ernie also filled in for Heather when she took leave.
- **LCA Child Safety Standards for Congregations (CSS):** Thanks to Mel Keller and Claire Roennfeldt for ensuring that the Parish conforms to these standards. The Parish has conducted a Child Safety Self-Assessment survey on the 10 standards and its now working on a Child Safety Plan – which is to be reviewed every 2yrs. The Parish Council will bring this to the attention of the congregation via posters, the Bulletin, and CSS information displayed on TV screens following the service.
- **Sale of St Mark's, Yackandandah:** The Auction was held on 30th July 2022, with the property selling for \$670,000. The final sum, after expenses, was \$651,272.47 and was deposited into our LLL account on 3/11/2022.
- **Relocating Parish Office:** On 22 July 2023 the Office was relocated to VLC. There were a few issues with the internet and the telephone to start with, but otherwise it was a smooth transition. Thanks to all who helped with the move, especially Claire Roennfeldt who pre-packed the office at Havelock St.
- **Pastor's Accommodation:** Due to the manse being rented during the vacancy and the imminent redevelopment of the Havelock St property, a 3BR unit was secured for Ps Josh before his arrival (late July 2022). Now a house/land package (Leneva) is being explored with Alatalo Bros. This option will be put to the forthcoming AGM on 5/3/23.
- **New Church Facility:** Once Tim McInnes (**Redevelopment Chair**) indicated that Wodonga City Council (WCC) had issued a building permit at VLC a ground-breaking and blessing service was held on-site after morning worship on Sun., 4/12/23. To date, the slab has been poured and the steel framework is next.
- **Special Services:**
 - **Thanksgiving Service (1/5/22 and 19/2/23)** Non-perishable food & other goods that were collected in the weeks previous have been donated to Albury-

- Wodonga Foodshare; this was much appreciated.
- **Victory Sunday (29/5/22)** held in Luther Hall (VLC) was well attended by both Parish members and the College community.
 - **Reformation Sunday (30/10/22)** was a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of the Reformer, Martin Luther, over 500yrs ago.
 - **All Saints (6/11/22)** on this day we remembered the members of the Parish who had passed into glory and sit in God's presence in heaven.
 - **COVID Restrictions:** As most COVID restrictions have been lifted it means that we can plan activities without the worry of having to cancel. It's also pleasing to see the return of the common cup in Holy Communion, as well as members staying after worship for fellowship.
 - **Worship C'tee:** After Ps Josh's arrival a committee was established to assist him with the planning and development of the worship life of the congregation. So far they have drafted *Role Descriptions* for worship assistants, discussed how to include/engage children in worship services, the re-introduction of activity Faith Bags for younger children, and the distribution of goodies after Chr. services. Planning is underway for *Special Services* throughout 2023.
 - **Current members:** Ps Josh, Jenny Simboras, Rhonda Keller, Susan Edwards, and Sheryl Parsons.
 - **Advent Dinner** – the committee organised a very successful event at the home of Lorna Oates and Ian Geddes, on 27/11/22, with over 50 guests. Ps Josh focussed on Advent readings which were complimented by hymn singing, led by Susan Edwards on the piano.
 - **Confirmation:** Jenny joined 6 young people in their confirmation lessons led now by Ps Josh; they will renew their Baptismal vows on Pentecost Sunday (28/5/23). Special thanks to Rhonda Keller for instructing them until Ps Josh's arrival.
 - **Parish/College Mission & Ministry:** The M&M Team meets monthly to discover ways to actively work together to make our two communities, one; living out our vision statement: *'Building our community through Faith, Hope and Love, IN Jesus'*.
 - **Team members are:** Ps Joshua, Jenny Simboras, John Thompson (Principal), Joel Klemke (VLC Chaplain), Sheryl Parsons, Lisa Enever, Claire Roennfeldt, Mel Keller, Jason Zweck, Jonathan Schmidt, Janine Hallahan.
 - **Achievements in the past 12mths:**
 - **Foundation Chapel** service morning tea, **Carols** at the College, Presentation of the **LLL 100yr Anniversary Gift** to Foundation and Yr12 students, **Bibles presented** to Yr3 students, Invitation to VLC community to **Ground breaking and Blessing** svc at new church site, Parish invited to **Valedictory Service, End of Year Service** (2022), and **Opening Service** (2023); **VLC's 30th Anniversary** celebrations, and **Distribution of Voice of Victory newsletter** to the Parish.
 - **Goals for 2023:** WLP and VLC **Supporting ALWS 'Gifts of Grace'**, morning tea after **Primary Chapel** service, **Reformation Day** and other Church Festivals, **Victory Sunday**, Supporting VLC **Helping Hands** program, **Twilight Carnival**, Parish and VLC **supporting ALWS fundraiser Walk My Way**.
 - **Yr3 Bible Presentations:** This has been a long-held outreach of the Parish. Members attended the Primary Chapel service (3/5/22) to present a Bible to the Yr3 students. Donations were made toward the purchase of 40 at a cost of \$40 ea.
 - **Thankyou** to all who have served our Parish during the vacancy and on-going: The retired Pastors, Susan Edwards and the Band, Volunteers and 'Conscripts', Heather Grealy, and to my family for their support.

9. PASTOR'S REPORT (Ps Josh Muller)

- **Introductory Words:** Following words of greeting from 1 Thess. 5:14-18, Ps Josh expressed his joy and privilege to serve WLP from August 2022. From September onward Ps Josh attended VicDist Pastors Conference, Convention of Synod (Melb), and then General Pastors Conference in Tanunda (SA). Advent and Christmas celebrations followed.
- **Worship C'tee (WC):** Soon after installation Ps Josh asked the Parish Council to establish a WC, which has proved to be invaluable. The c'tee co-ordinates various aspects of worship, and clarified duty rosters.
- **Confirmation & Bible Studies:** Ps Josh took over Confirmation lessons and also planned an adult Bible Study series for parish members during Oct. & Nov. They were well attended (24 attendees across two time-slots).
- **Pastoral Acts:** Following worship (4/12/22) Ps Josh led a service of *breaking the ground* at the new church site on Drage Rd. The following week Ps Josh conducted his first baptism at St Johns. During Pastor's absence in October, Ps Ernie Kiss baptised another child.
- **Parish Office:** Now that the Office is located at VLC, Ps Josh has participated in many school events, thus getting to know various parish and school families. The Pastoral Assistants have been helping to organise essential visits.
- **New Parish:** Coming to a Victorian Parish Ps Josh learned of our extensive lockdowns and worship restrictions. He also had to adjust to 1 worshipping community instead of a multi-point parish.

10. TREASURER'S REPORT (Paul Vogelsang)

- **Reflections:** Paul gave thanks to our heavenly Father for the many blessings we have received – eg Ps Josh accepting our call, and the financial generosity of our members through REG and Sunday offerings. The LLL bank balance was boosted with the deposit of funds from the sale of St Marks, Yackandandah. But with the building of a new church we will expect significant expenses.
- **Income (2022):** This amounted to \$789,227 = regular income of \$137,954 plus the proceeds of the sale of St Marks, \$651, 272.47 (nett).
- **Expenses (2022):** Total expenses amounted to \$133,575 (increase of >\$18,000 due to accommodation costs, and real-estate fees. WLP had an Operating Profit of \$4,379 (excl. sale of St Marks) instead of a budgeted loss of \$3,348.
- **Bank Balances:** The Westpac balance went down to \$1,623 by year's end. But the LLL bank balance increased to \$721,309 with the sale of St Marks.
- **Other Bank A/cs:** As of 31/12/2022....
 - **Ladies Guild** – LLL was \$345.23; CBA \$192.79 = \$528.02 in funds.
 - **Savers Corner** – LLL was \$14,061.57; CBA \$0.00 (A/c closed) = \$14,061.57
 - **Liabilities:** Annual Leave and LSL amounts to \$12,682 due to wage increases, pastor's A/L, and accumulation of LSL.
 - **Parish Asset Register:** As of 27/01/2023 these assets are valued at \$28,700.
- **Property Valuation:** The Havelock St property was professionally valued every 5yrs, and last valued in 2015. Due to pending redevelopment, relocating to Drage Rd, and to save expense, the property wasn't revalued in 2022.
- **Proposed Budget (2023):** Income set at \$157,886; Expenses set at \$173,774. Meaning an Operating Loss of \$15,888.

DISCUSSION

- **Margaret Burkert** asked whether the rental on the old manse could be claimed on GST. The **Treasurer** replied that it cannot. This information was confirmed by the auditor (Craig Hollis) in 2022, hence the Treasurer stopped claiming GST on “management fees” by Elders, who oversee the tenancy of the old manse.
- **Phill Edwards** asked whether the first instalment of \$102,000 (which was paid for the new church building) had been budgeted for, and was it approved by the Parish. The **Treasurer** replied that this sum was budgeted for (2023) as it was the only known progress payment required at the time he was drafting the proposed budget. And, No, it wasn’t separately approved by the Parish as he was under the impression that Parish Council had permission from the membership when it had agreed to build a new church.
- **Phill Edwards** asked about the disclosure of financial statements by the auditor, Craig Hollis. The **Treasurer** replied that this was subject to advice from the LCA. [Ed: The Treasurer has had no reply from the LCA on this matter despite 2 emails.]

11. ACCEPTANCE of the FINANCIALS and 2023 PROPOSED BUDGET

- **Motion 1:** That the Financials and proposed Budget for 2023 be accepted.
Moved: Paul Vogelsang **Seconded:** Marie Hill **AIF** **Carried**

12. APPOINTMENT of the AUDITOR

- **Motion 2:** That we continue to engage the services of Craig Hollis (**Stewart, Tracy and Mylon**) as auditors of our financials; budgeted cost is \$1,628.
Moved: Paul Vogelsang **Seconded:** Phill Edwards **AIF** **Carried.**

13. REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (Tim McInnes)

- **New Beginnings:** We have not only *turned the first sod* on the building site, but the *slab* has been poured. The construction is on target provided the materials arrive when needed and the weather holds off.
- **Subdivision & Deeds:** Now that the slab is poured, we can proceed with the subdivision – ie to separate the church property from the College. Surveying is almost complete and the application is ready to be lodged with the Wodonga City Council (WCC). Additionally, VLC, WLP, and VicDist Property Trust must sign off on a new Deed of Trust so the documentation reflects the new arrangements – ie, Lot 1 belongs to the Parish, and Lot 2 belongs to the College.
- **Construction:** The time-frame to build the church largely depends on availability of materials, weather, and tradesmen – it’s expected to be finished by year’s end.
- **New Manse:** This is currently under review with a house-land package from Alatalo Bros being considered; location at either Leneva or Thurgoona.
- **Havelock St Redevelopment:** The submission to WCC for a building permit to erect apartments is still being finalised – the Alatalos have a permit to develop, but not to build. The VCAT hearing (2021) ordered certain changes be made to the plans, which means updating engineering drawings and re-submitting them to WCC.
- **Sale of Havelock St Property:** WLP must sell the existing property to the Alatalo Bros – consisting of the church property and current manse – in order that demolition, and the building of 18 townhouses, can proceed. The redevelopment will occur concurrently with the new church project.

- The VicDist has given WLP permission to sell the Havelock St Property in our own right, meaning that we need not seek legal advice from lawyers. In due course a Building Contract will be signed with the developer (Alatalo Bros), which will remain 'Commercial in Confidence'.

DISCUSSION

- There was much discussion about residual debt which the Parish might have to carry as a result of the subdivision. So, in order to dispel any concerns and for the sake of clarity, Tim McInnes suggested that the phrase, **'together with all mortgage liabilities'**, be added to Proposal 2b. There was general agreement for this.
- **Sheryl Parsons** asked whether the Parish would still own 2 townhouses – as per the original plans. In response, both Tim McInnes and John Alatalo said that, due to the VCAT ruling, only 18 apartments can be built and only one apartment can now be promised to WLP.
- **Phill Edwards** expressed his concern that the Parish had neither authorised Jenny Simboras and Tim McInnes to commit to, or sign, a Contract to Build a new church (as per the 1999 Parish Constitution) since WLP did not have adequate funds.
- **John Alatalo** was invited to address the AGM: **John** responded saying that, as Alatalo Bros had agreed (several years ago) to build a new Church, as well as 20 Townhouses (on the Havelock Str property) on a 'cost neutral' basis, he would personally guarantee that Alatalo Bros will carry any financial deficits incurred by the Parish in the redevelopment.
- Moreover, **progress payments** on the church construction (apart from the initial \$102,000 instalment already made), will be deferred until sufficient funds are generated by the sale of the apartments. And once the whole project is completed, any profit will be shared with WLP.
- **MOTIONS relating to this report are contained in NEW BUSINESS (p. 13ff)**

14. PASTORAL ASSISTANTS (PA) REPORT (Sheryl Parsons & Sue Housego)

- **New Year:** Fewer COVID restrictions meant that we could open the church and have face-to-face services. We were truly blessed that the retired Pastors could lead worship during the vacancy, and be available for pastoral support. Phone calls and informal visits to members continued until all COVID restrictions were lifted.
- **New Pastor:** We've had 3 meetings with Ps Josh since his arrival and speak weekly to discuss any issues that have arisen, and check his schedule.
- **Visitation:** The PAs have made 57 phone calls and accompanied Ps Josh on 10 home visits; 3 appointments were rescheduled. No pastoral visits were requested during the Vacancy/ COVID period, but as Ps Josh is our 'shepherd' it's his calling to care for the sheep.
- **Pastoral Assistants** say it's been a pleasure to respond to requests for visits and have conversations that led to ministry for people. Hopefully those who have received visits have felt Jesus was with them and those visits brought them closer to Him.
- **NOTE:** Ps Josh is not too busy to see you, nor does he think you unimportant to visit but will schedule you into his week... unless it's an emergency, and then Ps Josh will see you ASAP. For a regular visit you should first call the PAs who will schedule a visit.

15. SAFE CHURCH CO-ORDINATOR (CAROLYN KISS)

- **LCA Child Safety Standards(CSS):** Posters have been displayed on the church walls and on the last slide of the worship PPT. These standards were approved by the LCA NZ General Church Board (GCB) in Oct 2022, and are a policy requirement for all Australian congregations who have children and young people regularly attending worship, or children's ministry/youth activities.
- **Purpose for CSS:**
 - To keep children safe, and help them thrive in their Christian faith
 - To meet the theological and synodical obligations to care for the young
 - To meet our legal and regulatory CSS requirements
- **Parish Council's Commitment:**
 - Complete the *Child Safety self-assessment* regarding child safety
 - Prepare and submit a *Child Safety Plan*, and
 - Implement that Child Safety Plan
- **Review:** As both the *Child Safety self-assessment* and *Child Safety Plan* are to be renewed every 2 years, members will be asked for their input.
- **Risk Assessments:** All events will require careful planning and risk minimisation
- **Leadership Training:** The LCA NZ requires people in leadership roles and those engaged with children/young people to undertake Safe Church Training. The Safe Church Co-ordinator's role is to monitor SC Training and the Working With Children Check (WWCC) register.
- **Enquiries:** Get in touch with Carolyn – see Parish Directory for contact details.

16. LADIES FELLOWSHIP REPORT (LF) (Margaret Burkert)

- **New President:** Margaret expected that the role would be simple because 'the Agenda is predictable'... but this was disrupted when Ps Josh accepted the call. So, we prepared a *Welcome Hamper* and delivered it to Pastor's Unit prior to his arrival in August.
- **Introductions:** The LF organised a '*Getting to know our Pastor*' morning in Sept. when Ps Josh talked about his life; and was followed by a luncheon. This led to a new regular section on the Agenda where we start each meeting with a short '*Getting to know our members*'.
- **The Agenda:** Our meeting begins with Bible Study from the LWA magazine (usually led by Ps Josh), followed by a Business meeting; then some ladies gather for a social lunch.
 - **Activities:** Usually about 6 women attend, plus Ps Josh. In 2022 the ladies hand-made 12 Baptism Birthday cards which, with Scripture tracts, were sent to all children Baptised in our congregation, until the 5th anniversary.
 - **Birthdays:** We remembered members' and friends' birthdays plus other significant dates, and sent 19 cards to those who were 80yrs and older.
 - **Winter Lunch:** The Ladies Fellowship gathered at a member's home – the meeting was followed by an enjoyable lunch with hot food and drinks.
 - **Breakup:** The Christmas Lunch was held at the SS&A Club, and all members of the congregation were invited to attend.
 - **Thanks:** to Ps Ernie for being LF pastor during the vacancy.
- **Related Events:**
 - **Lavington** Ladies Guild Moring Tea and Fashion Parade (6 attended)
 - **LW-NSW** weekend retreat at Warrambui (3 attended)
 - **World Day of Prayer** (4 attended)

- **LWV & LWA Projects:** Each month we make a free-will offering and donate monies: **LWV-T Convention** = \$100; Various **LWA projects** = \$1,250
- **DONATIONS:** Thanks to those who donated goods and money for Ps Josh's hamper; and the \$440 in donations at the Chr. Break-up which was forwarded to ALWS for overseas aid projects.
- **GUILD TREASURER'S REPORT (Sheryl Parsons)**
 - **INCOME:** \$3,394.52 CR
 - **EXPENDITURE:** \$3,394.52 CR

(see AGM Book of Reports for complete report)

17. MUSIC CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT (SUSAN EDWARDS)

- **Worship:** During 2022 worship services were supported by the band, keyboard, or recorded music. Besides Lay Reading services, the 3 retired pastors continued to choose the music until the arrival of our new Pastor, Josh Muller, and then we collaborated choosing a blend of Hymns, AT Songs, and new Contemporary songs.
- **The Band:** *'Joyful Noise'* played intermittently during the first half of the year, but now is playing regularly on the 1st Sunday/month for *Celebrating Communion in Song* (CCIS) liturgy. Highlights for 2022 were playing for Ps Josh's Installation and contributing to the Christmas Carols night at VLC.
- **Research:** Looking to find new music/hymns/songs is on-going; suggestions are welcome from members.
- **Band Members:** Currently we have Paul Vogelsang (trumpet), Mel Keller (guitar) Nicole Keller (vocals), Rolf Egeberg (drums), and Susan Edwards (keyboard); also Daniel Roik (bongos/drums) was welcomed back into the band. Thanks also go to Peter and Carla Vogelsang for filling in on drums at various times.
- **Ongoing:** (1) Thanks to members who run the sound system and play pre-recorded music during my absence. (2) Christian Copyright, Music Reproduction and Performance Licences, are all up to date. Reporting song usage is done as needed.
- **Appeal:** (1) Additional helpers are needed to play the pre-recorded music and operate the sound system while Susan might be away. (2) Musicians and singers are welcome to join in and see how you go glorifying our Saviour with music.

18. STATISTICS (Heather Grealy)

BAPTISMS:

1. **Clara Elizabeth GRAHAM** – on 12/6/2022 at St Johns, Wodonga by Ps Ernie Kiss (Army family referred by Chaplain Andrew Dockerill)
2. **Lorenzo Andrew John HOUSLER** – on 12/6/2022 at St Johns, Wodonga by Pastor Graham Zweck
3. **Declan David KOVACS** – on 10/7/2022 at St Johns, Wodonga by Ps Ernie Kiss
4. **Grace Rose LIESCHKE** – 11/12/2022 at St Johns, Wodonga by Ps Joshua Muller

MARRIAGES: NIL

FIRST COMMUNIONS: NIL

CONFIRMATIONS: NIL

NEW MEMBERS:

1. **Esperance NYABIKIZA** – Admitted on 27/2/2022 to St Johns, Wodonga by Pastor Graham Zweck
2. **Joshua Frank MULLER** – Installed on 7/8/2022 to St Johns, Wodonga by Asst Bishop Matthias Prenzler (service at Victory Lutheran College).

DEATHS/BURIALS:

1. Ernst Hermann Heinrich (Henry) EGGERS

Died on 12/1/2022; Funeral on 21/1/2022 at St Johns, Wodonga by Ps Ernie Kiss; Buried at Wodonga Lawn Cemetery

2. Warren Lloyd TRABANT

Died on 7/6/2022; Funeral on 20/6/2022 at St Johns, Wodonga by Ps Graham Zweck; Buried at Wodonga Lawn Cemetery

19. ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL REPORTS:

MOTION: That all the REPORTS presented by the Executive and Auxiliaries of the Wodonga Lutheran Parish be accepted.

Moved: Sue Housego **Seconded:** Claire Roennfeldt **AIF** **Carried**

20. GENERAL BUSINESS

NEW PARISH MANSE: HOUSE & LAND PACKAGE (ADDENDUM 3A)

REASONS FOR THE PROPOSALS

As mentioned in the Parish Chairperson's report the opportunity to rent a four bedroom house as a manse did not come to fruition as the rent being asked was well over \$600 per week. Then the Parish Council considered purchasing an established four-bedroom home, but finding a suitable, low maintenance premises, and in the price range we could afford, and acceptable to the LCA requirements, was again out of reach.

The Parish Council felt that the best option would be to build a new home where any major maintenance would be almost non-existent for the first 10 years. The Building Committee Chairperson, Tim McInnes, and the Parish Chairperson, Jenny Simboras, approached Alatalo Bros to investigate the purchase of a house/land package and reported back to the Parish Council at their regular meeting on Wed. 8th February.

After some discussion the Parish Council asked that negotiations continue with Alatalo Bros for a suitable block of land in *Cattanach Way, Leneva*, and that plans for a four bedroom home (to be built on this block) be submitted to Parish Council as soon as practicable. Approval to build a new manse was sought from the LCA-Victorian District Administrator, and it was duly given. Thus the Parish Council brings the following proposals to the AGM:

MOTION 1: That the Parish Council purchase a house-land package from Alatalo Bros for the approximate sum of \$580,000.

Moved: Carolyn Kiss **Seconded:** Glenn Roennfeldt **AIF** **Carried**

MOTION 2: That the Parish gives permission for the Parish Council to secure the block of land mentioned above, by paying a deposit to Alatalo Bros immediately.

Moved: John Simboras **Seconded:** John Donker **AIF** **Carried**

HOUSE AND LAND PACKAGE: EXPENDITURE (ADDENDUM 3B)

MOTION 3: That Parish Council be given authority to make progressive payments to Alatalo Bros as required, without having to seek permission before every payment.

Also, that the Parish Treasurer will inform Parish members of the installments that have been made.

Proposed: by Parish Chairperson and Building Committee Chairperson

Dated: 15th February, 2023

Moved: Carolyn Kiss **Seconded:** Jason Zweck **Motion put to vote:**
Results: **For – 38 Against – 2 Carried**

21. THANKS to RETIRING MEMBER

The Chair (Jenny Simboras) expressed her gratitude to Paul Vogelsang for the 6½ years he held the position of Parish Treasurer. Jenny vacated the chair for Ps Josh to conduct the elections.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Ps Joshua Muller took the chair to conduct the election of office bearers, declaring all positions vacant.

The Executive and Council Member nominations were taken as a block.

- **CHAIRPERSON:** Jenny Simboras – only nominee.
- **PARISH SECRETARY:** Ps Ernie Kiss – only nominee.
- **TREASURER:** Ron Asquith – only nominee.

- **PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Continuing: Tim McInnes, John Donker, Mel Keller, Claire Roennfeldt

Nominees: Alex Sweetman, Andy Enever

As there were no further nominations the above were duly elected to Parish Council.

Vice-Chair: Alex Sweetman – self-nominated.

Moved: Jan Farrell **Seconded:** Tim McInnes **AIF Carried**

- **CHURCH LIFE**

Pastoral Assistants: Sheryl Parsons and Sue Housego

Worship C'tee: Rhonda Keller, Susan Edwards, Sheryl Parsons, Jenny Simboras

Lay Readers: Phillip Edwards, John Donker

Moved: Ingrid Harder **Seconded:** Claire Roennfeldt **AIF Carried.**

23. PERSONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

- **Safe Church Co-ordinator:** Carolyn Kiss
- **Music Co-ordinator:** Susan Edwards
- **Lutheran Women's Fellowship:** Margaret Burkert – President
Lenore de Garis – Secretary
Sheryl Parsons – Treasurer

- **International Mission:** Jan Farrell – Link Member;
Ingrid Harder – Stamp Collector
- **LLL Rep:** Heather Grealy – Office Secretary

PARISH/COLLEGE – MISSION and MINISTRY

MEMBERS: Jenny Simboras, Joel Klemke, Sheryl Parsons, Lisa Enever,
Claire Roennfeldt, Mel Keller, Jason Zweck, Jonathan Schmidt,
Janine Hallahan, Kat Chisolm.

Moved: Susan Edwards **Seconded:** Paul Vogelsang **AIF** **Carried**

EX OFFICIO

PARISH PASTOR – Ps Josh Muller
VLC PRINCIPAL – John Thompson
VLC BOARD, CHAIR – Adrian Gutsche

24. CLOSE

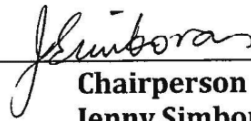
As there was no further business Chairperson, Jenny Simboras, **declared the meeting closed at 12.30pm.** Ps Josh concluded with a brief Prayer, Lord's Prayer, and a Blessing.

25. SIGNATURES



Minute Secretary
Ps Ernie Kiss

Dated: 4/4/23



Chairperson
Jenny Simboras

Dated: 4/4/23

WODONGA LUTHERAN PARISH
16th JULY 2023 – SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING
To Adopt the Draft Constitution with Amendments

WELCOME

The Chair, Jenny Simboras, convened the General Meeting of Wodonga Lutheran Parish at 10:45am, welcoming all members and reminding them to sign the Attendance Sheets.

QUORUM

Whilst still operating under the 1999 Wodonga Lutheran Parish Constitution, the quorum required to adopt a new constitution is one-quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) of the eligible voting membership (i.e. 19), and by a two-thirds vote.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance sheets record the signatures of 40 eligible voting members and 2 apologies – thus a quorum was established.

PRAYER

Pastor Josh Muller prayed for the Lord's blessing on the meeting and its outcome.

INTRODUCTION

Vice Chairman, Alex Sweetman, was invited to introduce the *Summary of Changes to the Parish Constitution* received from the Vic/Tas District, and are as follows:

Summary of Changes to WLP Parish Constitution
received from Vic/Tas District

District Constitutions Committee have requested modifications to the constitution adopted by the parish on 5th March. The changes are summarised below (words to be deleted – ~~striketrough~~; words to be added – **bold**)

Change #1)

District Constitution Committee has provided the following advice 'This aligns to process as District holds/owns the land in trust for the Congregation (has since 1971 Act of Parliament). Description in the previous model was factually incorrect:

4.1.8 join with the Church and the District in building and extending the Kingdom of God; and

4.1.9 **Give instructions which enable District to** acquire, dispose of or otherwise deal with real ~~and personal~~ property in the interest of the work of the Church and the Parish; **and**

4.1.10 **Acquire, dispose of, or otherwise deal with personal property in the interest of the work of the Church and the Parish.**

7.1.1.1 **Instruct the District to** acquire, hold, deal with and dispose of any real ~~or personal~~ property **for the Parish;**

7.1.1.2 **Acquire, hold, deal with and dispose of any personal property for the parish;**

Renumber subsequent clauses.

Change #2)

Ensure the language and wording is consistent across the constitution:

- 4.2.1 The Parish recognises its unique historical connection **and its commitment** to Victory Lutheran College and ~~is committed to supporting~~ **shall support** the mission and ministry of the college in its provision of Christian education.

4.4 Children and Vulnerable People

- 4.4.1 The Parish shall **have**, maintain and promote a culture of care in all areas of the Parish and its activities, so that all people, especially the vulnerable, are protected against any form of spiritual, emotional, physical, or sexual abuse.
- 4.4.2 The Parish, as an organisation with direct and regular contact with children, ~~is~~ **shall be** committed to being a child safe organisation. The Parish ~~has~~ **shall have** a zero tolerance for child abuse and ~~is~~ **shall be** committed to acting in children's best interests and in keeping them safe from harm. The Parish ~~regards~~ **shall regard** its child protection responsibilities with the utmost importance, and, as such, ~~is~~ **shall be** committed to providing the necessary resources to ensure compliance with all relevant child protection laws and regulations and to maintain a child safe culture.

Change #3)

In clause 9.1.3, correct the reference regarding filling casual vacancies to 9.4.1.6 (currently says 9.4.1.7).

Change #4)

The Header in the Parish Constitution has been amended from Wodonga Lutheran Parish (March 2023) to Lutheran Church of Australia Wodonga Parish (July 2023) and the words 'and By-Laws' have been removed for consistency with the model constitution.

An addition to the Footer in the Parish Constitution has been made which records the date of the District Church Council (DCC) approval.

Change #5)

Minor punctuation, capitalisation, and formatting changes have been made throughout the Parish Constitution to bring it in line with the model constitution.

Change #6)

In clause 5.1.1.2, the word 'congregation' has been added which relates to the transfer of baptised members.

Change #7)

In clause 7.6, the words 'establishment and' have been deleted for consistency with the model constitution.

Change #8)

In clause 8.4.2, the first instance of the words 'voting members' have been deleted for consistency with the model constitution.

Change #9)

In clause 9.3.1, the word 'Parish' has been inserted to correct an accidental omission.

Change #10)

In clause 9.7.1, the word 'voting' has been added to clarify who is eligible to be a lay reader.

QUESTIONS

Mr Phill Edwards asked whether the draft constitution had been accepted. This was answered in the affirmative – the original Motion was passed at the AGM, 5th March 2023.

MOTION

That the Wodonga Lutheran Parish accept the changes to the constitution of the Wodonga Lutheran Parish as recommended by the Victorian/Tasmanian District Constitutions Committee, and published in the Parish's weekly Bulletin from the 18th June 2023, [thereby also adopting the Draft Constitution].

Moved: Alex Sweetman

Seconded: Ingrid Harder

AIF

Carried

CLOSE

The meeting was closed at 11.00am with the Lord's Prayer led by Pastor Josh.



WODONGA LUTHERAN PARISH MINUTES of the SPECIAL MEETING Sunday, 10th December 2023

Chairperson: Jenny Simboras

Minute Taker: Alex Sweetman

Venue: Luther Hall, Victory Lutheran College, Wodonga

Meeting Opened at 10.25am

WELCOME AND PRAYER

The Chair, Jenny Simboras, convened the Special Meeting of the Wodonga Lutheran Parish (WLP), opening with prayer and welcomed all members, reminding them to sign the Attendance Sheet.

QUORUM

Under the 2023 WLP Constitution, the quorum required to adopt a resolution is one quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) of the eligible voting members (ie 19 votes), and by a two thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote.

ATTENDANCE

The Attendance Sheet recorded the signatures of 39 eligible voting members and 9 apologies. Thus a quorum was established.

NEW MINISTRY CO-ORDINATOR POSITION

The Chair, Jenny Simboras, introduced the New Ministry Co-ordinator's position and read the following information:

Position Summary

The ministry Co-ordinator, with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, will support the on-going ministry activities of the WLP and grow the overall outreach and pastoral care aspects, with particular emphasis on connecting to the staff, students, and community of Victory Lutheran College (VLC), and also the wider Wodonga community.

See pages 4 and 5 for further information that was provided to members prior to the meeting.

PROPOSED MOTION (from the WLP Council)

That the Wodonga Lutheran Parish employ a Ministry Co-ordinator for 0.6FTE commencing in February 2024 for a period of 3 years.

Moved: Claire Roennfeldt

Seconded: Ron Asquith

DISCUSSION

Phill Edwards's Comments

Phill is concerned about the finances and direction of the Parish, as follows:

- *Its use of monies for building the manse has not been approved at previous AGMs*
- *The two building contracts have not been presented to Parish members for approval*
- *In his opinion, the previous Budget Report submitted to the auditor failed to provide an accurate picture of the Parish's financial position*
- *There is no access to Parish Council minutes and no replies have been received to his written communications*
- *Members have been given inadequate time (3 days) to consider the cost of this new proposal; which has gone from \$25,000 to \$160,000 or \$170,000.*

Phill Edwards's Questions

Q1. *How much money from the sale of Havelock Street is being used to build the new church?*

Response to Q1, Ron Asquith, Treasurer

- As per a recent briefing to Parish members, approx. \$1.3million was received from the sale of Havelock St, and approx. \$650,000 from the sale of St Marks. The proceeds from the sale of both properties (approx. \$2m) have gone toward the church and manse projects, which comes to a total of approx. \$4m.
- The Parish has paid approx. \$2m towards the projects to date.
- The funds in the Parish's bank accounts are a result of GST refunds over the period of the projects.
- Funds received from the sales have not been used for recurrent payment purposes.
- The Parish's recurrent budget plan was to lose approx. \$15,000/yr, and at this stage it has lost approx. \$12,000. Thus there has been no need to commit any of the properties' sale proceeds towards the new church and manse projects.

Q2. *How much money from the sale of St Marks is being used for the new church?*

Response to Q2, Ron Asquith, Treasurer

- As per the answer above, all funds, approx. \$650,000, is being used to build the new church and manse.

Q3. *What is our liability for the \$2.1m, and how does this fit with spending another \$170,000 over 3yrs?*

Response to Q3, Ron Asquith, Treasurer

- The treasure is unable to speak to financial matters from past financial years or AGMs because he was not involved.
- As per previous disclosure, the outstanding balance is expected to be cleared from the completion of the Havelock Street development in 2026.
- Our current liability is approx. \$300,000. We have made progress payments to Alatalo Bros up until now. We have recently commenced a deferred progress payments arrangement with the builder which is expected to see the total debt rise to approx. \$2m. This debt to Alatalo Bros is expected to be extinguished at the end of the project, from the sale of units.
- In terms of funding of the new Ministry Co-ordinator role, the LLL is providing a grant of \$25,000 and the remaining cash to employ a 0.6FTE over a 3yr period has been set aside.

- The important point to make is that the new position is not impacting our recurrent funding budget. The new position is being funded out of cash reserves.
- In summary, it's a commitment to make the most of what we have, to ensure that in 3yrs time we are operating on a solid financial footing with good income and good membership.
- We are currently about to start on the development of a new financial budget. Whilst this process hasn't started, what can be said is that our operations are not materially changing when we move across to the new church. There may be some additional costs incurred from moving, but our normal expenditure remains in place.

Susan Edwards's Question

Q1. *Where do our cash reserves come from?*

Response to Q1, Ron Asquith, Treasurer

- The majority of the \$400,000 in cash reserves has accumulated over the past year from the GST we claim from the progress payments and the sale of the land.
- It may appear that we cannot afford a co-ordinator in the current situation, however, there is a counter argument: we can, if we use some of our cash reserves, plus the \$25,000 LLL grant, and look to the future. The question is what happens if we don't do it? We will face a future of continual fiscal tightness, a congregation that is not growing, and an inability to reach out to the community because we don't have the resources to do it properly.
- The continued advice from John Alatalo – at public and private meetings, although not contractually binding – is that he will underwrite the projects and ensure that the church is not out of pocket.
- There is an option to use the funds we have to pay off the debt, saving interest and not support the ministry and missions aspirations of the Parish. From Ron's perspective, this would be a poor use of the money.

Comment from Susan Edwards: It's a tumble between having faith in God being part of what we are doing or not, and being proper stewards of what we already have. Currently we are inward focusing and have been for a long time in maintenance; outwardly it would be good to do, but do we risk remaining in debt for the diminishing congregation to pick up if it does not all go to plan?

Comment from Pastor Graham Zweck: Pastor Graham made positive comments and set a challenge. He requested that we consider adding to the end of the new Ministry Co-ordinator role summary the words *'and all that have fallen away from worship over the past 10 years'*. This would include children Baptised, children who have attended Confirmation, Families, and people who have had major roles in our congregation previously including teachers from Victory. This is a joint venture between the congregation and the school (VLC). He would like to see a ministry of compassion and concern.

Ps Graham's experience has taught him that it is a privilege and duty to visit and encourage those who have fallen away. He recommended that responsibility for this exercise falls to the Pastor and the new Ministry Co-ordinator. The sooner the better, otherwise, we will lose them for good.

Response from the congregation: applause from several members. End of discussion.

VOTING RESULT 36 voted in favour, 1 voted against, 2 abstained. **Carried**

ELECTION OF SYNOD DELEGATE

The Chair, Jenny Simboras, read out the nominations received: Carolyn Kiss and Andy Enever. A secret Ballot was conducted to appoint a Parish delegate for the next 3 years.

VOTING RESULT

Andy Enever won the Ballot, and so was appointed as Parish delegate for the next 3 years which includes attending the next LCA NZ General Convention of Synod to be held in Adelaide, October 2024.

CLOSING PRAYER

Jenny Simboras declared the **meeting closed at 10.55am**. Jenny also prayed for the Parish, and for Pastor Josh's health.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____
Jenny Simboras (chair)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND FINANCIAL DETAILS of EMPLOYMENT OF MINISTRY CO-ORDINATOR (0.6 FTE)

Q1. Why are we appointing a Ministry Coordinator?

God has given us the opportunity to minister the love of Jesus to each other, the Victory College Community, the West Wodonga community, and all those who walk through the front door of our beautiful new church. We are embracing this opportunity by providing support to the Parish Pastor.

Q2. What is the term of employment?

The proposed term is 3 years to enable activities to "bear fruit". The employee is subject to annual reviews. At the end of this term a decision will be made whether we have the capacity to continue with the role as a recurrent budget item.

Q3. Can we afford this additional cost?

Our operating budget does not have the capacity to fund this role however we are able to set aside cash from our current reserves to fund the position for 2 years. In addition, a % of funds received from the Havelock St Development will fund year 3.

<u>Estimated costs (including resources)</u>	<u>Funded by</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Year 1 \$53,836	Grant from the LLL	\$25,000
	Cash Reserves	\$28,836
Year 2 \$53,906	Cash Reserves	\$53,906
Year 3 \$55,523	Development proceeds	\$55,523

Q4. What is our current cash position?

As at 30 November 2023 our cash at bank totalled **\$341,232.22**

This is notionally allocated as follows:

Ministry Co-ordinator (years 1 & 2 \$82,742)	\$ 85,000
Operating deficits (if required) for 3 years	\$135,000
Non-building acquisitions for church and manse	\$110,000
Contingency	<u>\$ 11,232</u>
	\$341,232

Q5. What is our current budget position?

Budget for the current year	\$- 15,888
Budget to 30 November 2023	\$- 14,564
Actual to 30 November 2023	\$- 12,100

We currently operate a deficit budget (this excludes all building work). We anticipate the operating deficit will initially increase at the new site. This will be clarified once the budget for 2024 is completed. This is why we have set aside reserves to cover any deficit as we settle into the new site and build our membership and other income streams.

Q6. What is the financial impact of appointing an Administration Officer?

There will be minimal impact, except for any increases in award rates. This is because all the current secretarial duties are captured in the new role description. It clarifies the expectations of the role within existing hours and budget. Office efficiencies will be achieved through the collaboration of work between the Pastor, Administration Officer and the Ministry Co-ordinator.

Q7. When will any funds be received from the Havelock St Development?

Alatalo Bros will be building 3-4 units at a time. The anticipated conclusion to the project is in the second half of 2026. As with all building projects, any surplus is only crystalized at the end of the project when costs have ceased, and final sale proceeds are received. As such, Parish Council is managing the current cash reserves on a 3-year time horizon.

Chairperson's Report

God has placed us all, young and old, in this time and place for a reason. That reason is to follow His command, as we read in Matthew 28 v18 – 20. "All power in heaven and on earth is given to me. So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptise them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything that I have taught you, and I will be with you always, even until the end of this age".

As we step into the future in our new worship facility the simplest way to reach out is **to ask** a friend or family member to come to worship or a church activity. Don't be put off by comments such as, 'the building will fall down if I entered it', or 'maybe later'. Keep asking, be persistent and be there for them when they finally say they would love to come.

Let us be the welcoming church to our many visitors. Go out of your way to greet the visitor to make them feel that you are pleased and honoured they are worshipping with us. As well as speaking the love of Jesus, we need to **be** the love of Jesus to all those with whom we come in contact with.

It can be scary to step out of our comfort zone but exciting times are ahead! God's love has no limit and may He use each one of us to bring glory to His Name, in whichever way He chooses to use us.

Thank you, Pastor Josh

The past year has been a very busy one for our Parish with many changes and I am ever so thankful that we have had a Pastor to guide and lead us. Thank you, Pastor Josh, for what you have brought to this Parish through leadership, sermons, counsel and your friendship.

Closing of St John's Havelock Street

On a wet and cold Sunday 7th May 2023 the St John's Havelock Street building was officially closed. The final service was conducted by Bishop Lester Priebsenow, Parish Pastor Joshua Muller and former pastor, Pastor Graham Zweck. The church was full with many visitors, current and past members, who witnessed the processional of vessels and furnishings from the building and the finally closing of the church door by Bishop Lester, in the Rite of Closure. A light lunch was served in the hall after the service.

Thank you to the many members who helped with the cleaning out of all the buildings on the Havelock Street site in the weeks before and after the official closing.

Worship 'Camping'

May 14th 2023 the Parish commenced worship 'camping' in Luther Hall at Victory Lutheran College. There have been many issues in getting use to our 'camping'. The huge space was probably the biggest issue to come to terms with, as well as the setting up and packing up each week. The seventy or so chairs set up near the stage seemed to be dwarfed in the expanse of the remainder of the room. The after-service cuppa in the foyer of Luther Hall was a welcoming place for a chat and catch up and it was pleasing to see many stayed to enjoy each other's company.

Our numbers at worship services while camping have remained the same if not increased a little and our giving has increased. Thanks, and praise be to our God!

My grateful thanks go to those members who each Friday afternoon after school, made themselves available to set up the hall for the Sunday worship. Thanks to all of you who quickly packed up the chairs after the worship service.

New Church

At the time of writing this report, there is still no date for the official opening and consecration of our new worship facility.

Thank you to the many members who have served on the Building Committees in the past years. To the present Building Committee, thank you for the many, many hours of work you have put in over these past months to finalise all the details as we move towards an opening.

It is with excited anticipation on how the Lord is going to use us and our new facility in reaching the local community and also the College community.

New Manse

The Manse has been progressing really well and the completion time for the manse will be towards the end of April.

A blessing of the manse is being planned by the Worship Committee to take place after a regular Sunday worship service with a picnic BYO lunch to follow the blessing.

Moving Forward into the Future

A Moving Forward team was formed by the Parish Council to look at the ideas and suggestions from Parish members on how to use our new facility, to examine the resources we have, both human and material, and to gauge if we are using these resources to the maximum.

The Moving Forward team also looked at the need for additional human resources to further the mission and ministry of the Parish.

A new Administration Officer position, replacing the Secretarial position, was created with significant extra duties and responsibilities.

A special Parish meeting on 10th December 2023 on the recommendation of the Parish Council decided to employ a Ministry Coordinator.

LLL Mission Outreach Grant – Ministry Coordinator

The Parish's application for the LLL Mission Outreach Grant of \$25,000 was successful. This grant goes towards enabling the Parish to employ a person for a Ministry Coordinator position.

The position of Ministry Coordinator will support the ongoing ministry activities of our Parish, with a special emphasis on connecting to the community of Victory Lutheran College and also the wider Wodonga community.

Ministry outreach isn't just for the paid staff of our Parish; it is the responsibility of all of us. Our Ministry Coordinator will open new doors for us to connect with the community and bring the love of Jesus to all.

Mrs Lisa Enever has been appointed to the position of Ministry Coordinator. We congratulate Lisa on this appointment and wish her God's blessing in her new role.

Appointment of Administration Officer

The Parish Council has appointed Mrs Debbie Lieschke to fill the restructured position of Administration Officer. Debbie previously worked as a Pastoral Carer at Lutheran Aged Care in Albury. We congratulate Debbie on her new role and wish her every blessing as she serves in this position.

My thanks and I know the thanks of the Parish go to Heather Grealy who served this Parish well as the Receptionist for over 30 years. The Parish Council is organizing a dinner after Easter for Heather, to say thank you for her many years of service.

Parish Council

The Parish Council has had a very busy year and, on your behalf, I thank them for their service to the Parish.

The Constitution has finally been updated and accepted by the Parish. Thanks you to Claire Roennfeldt and Pastor Josh for the work you have put into updating the Constitution.

A defibrillator was purchased by the Parish and demonstration on how to use it was given to members after the worship service on 26th February 2023.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Wodonga Lutheran Parish and Victory Lutheran College is currently being drawn up. Both parties agreed that the MOU is essential to ensure the continued growth and partnership into the future and that the MOU be reviewed after 1 year and then every 3 years.

The MOU will include such things as financial, maintenance (grounds, cleaning, IT support, shared carpark), usage (funerals, College worship program). The MOU will also include a statement around shared Mission and Ministry of the Parish and College.

Retiring Parish Council

My thanks are extended to the retiring members of the Parish Council for their service to the Parish and to their Lord and Saviour.

John Donker, Andy Enever and Jenny Simboras will not seek nomination for the Parish Council in 2024.

Presentation of the Year 3 Bibles

Six members of our Parish presented Bibles to the Year 3 classes on Friday 8th March during the Primary Chapel service. To say the children were excited is an understatement. After the chapel service the Parish members met with the children they presented to and a wonderful time of sharing took place.

The parents of the Year 3 students who attended the chapel service, were very appreciative of this wonderful gift the Parish gives.

Donations towards the Bibles for the Year 3 classes is an ongoing appeal. If you would like to give to this appeal, please place your donation in an envelope and mark it 'Year 3 Bibles', and place it on the offering plate. The cost of a bible is \$40 and you can donation the whole cost or part of the cost anytime throughout the year.

Victory Sunday 2023

Victory Sunday was held on the 19th March 2023 in Luther Hall at Victory Lutheran College. This service was well attended by both Staff and Parish members who enjoyed morning tea and fellowship after the service.

Thanksgiving Sunday

Thanksgiving Sunday on 19th February 2023 was celebrated with a beautiful display of craft items as well as tools of trade. In thanksgiving to God for all that we have, Parish members were asked to donate non-perishable food and other essentials, which were displayed at the front of the church. The donated food and other items were gratefully received by Albury/Wodonga Foodshare.

Confirmation Class

On Pentecost Sunday 28th May 2023, Hannah Dewhirst, Jessica Hawkey, April Lade, Aidan Lockerbie, Alexa Taylor and Maddison Wiencke renewed their baptismal vow witnessed by their parents, God-parents, family, friends and members of the parish. This class began their studies in 2020 and had many interruptions due to the Covid lockdowns. It was a joy to be part of this class and to see them grow in their faith.

Thank you

Thank you to all those who have served our Parish in so many ways.

- The Pastoral Carers who have supported Pastor Josh with taking Holy Communion to those who can't join us in worship on Sunday, visiting and giving spiritual care to people in need.
- To all those who have served the Parish by being an usher, Bible reader, power point operator, those who set up and serve communion, morning tea provider, money counter and those who unlock and lock the gates. Your acts of servanthood are appreciated.
- To Susan Edwards and those who support her in the band, thank you for sharing your gift and beautifying our worship service.
- Thank you to all those who do the 'little' extra things that go unnoticed to make our Parish run smoothly.

Time to step down

It has been a joy to be your chairperson over the past 5 years, and I thank the Parish for this honour.

Those five years have certainly been eventful.

Who can forget the Covid virus and the disruptions the restrictions caused? Even though I was 'just across the river' and only 10 minutes by car, the restrictions to cross that river made me feel isolated from you, my friends. On my side of the river, I had more freedom of movement and on occasions I had the opportunity to worship in other parishes, and for this I felt guilt, sadness and my heart ached for you who didn't have those same freedoms. Praise God restrictions are in the past.

Closing a church and moving to a temporary space to worship can cause many strong emotions. I am so proud and extremely thankful with how everyone has embraced these changes and how we have all supported each other during this time of upheaval.

Seeing the plans for our new worship facility and the manse from beginning to end has been an experience that will remain with me always. I am excited as to what our Heavenly Father has in store for our Parish in the future and where He will lead us.

I thank you for the support, encouragement and love you have shown me over the past years. Your friendship is something I treasure and I know will continue to grow as we work together in God's Name.

As I leave this position, I ask you and God to forgive me for any hurt or distress I may have caused any of you by my words, actions or lack of actions.

I wish the new Parish Chairperson and the Parish Council God's richest blessing as they continue to lead you over the coming years.

And finally, thank you to John and my family for always being there for me with love and encouragement.

May our loving Heavenly Father continue to be with and bless the Wodonga Lutheran Parish.

Serving Him with you,

Humbly submitted

Jenny Simboras

Chairperson Wodonga Lutheran Parish

Pastor's Report

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30, NIV)

We have had a very full 2023 as a parish. Since the groundbreaking at the end of 2022, we have watched our new church facility slowly take shape. In preparation for our eventual move into the new building, we established a Moving Forward team to plan the future of our ministry to the Wodonga community. One of the outcomes of this team's work was the proposal to employ a Ministry Coordinator and to revise the administration duties to better support our future vision. There is still plenty of work to be done on volunteer role descriptions, and policies and procedures that define how we operate in the new space.

Along the way, we had several occasions to celebrate God bringing new members into our church. On Sunday 5th February we officially welcomed into membership Wayne & Glynis Hart, who came to us from a varied church background across Australia and New Zealand. We also welcomed Harper Keller into God's family through the waters of baptism on Sunday 12th March. On Sunday 30th April, our second last service at Havelock St, we celebrated the baptisms of Niall and Denver Mirtschin.

Our final service at Havelock St on Sunday 7th May saw Bishop Lester Priebbenow officially close that church as a place of worship. It was an emotional service for many people who had had significant family events in that building. Thank you to everyone involved in the planning and running of the service. Bishop Lester commented on how well thought out everything was, and how smoothly it went.

Our partnership with Victory Lutheran College has continued, especially with our use of Luther Hall for Sunday worship following the closure of Havelock St. We joined with our college community for Victory Sunday on 19th March, and on Friday 19th May we presented bibles to the Year Three students. I attend the LEVNT Ministry Network Day in Melbourne on Friday 28th April with our college chaplain Joel Klemke, to support him in his new role. I also officiated the funeral of VLC parent Maryke Agrella on Saturday 24th June in St John's Anglican Church, Wodonga.

Our 'camping' in Luther Hall has not been without its challenges. Things are never quite the same from one week to the next, as many different people use the same facilities and have different ideas about where things should be stored. Thank you very much to the group that comes in to set up every week and deals with any problems that may arise. Most members would be completely unaware of any issues as they have been sorted out behind the scenes.

My wider LCA commitments in 2023 included attending the General Convention of Synod held on 9th-12th February at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. The convention was held in two different spaces which required quite a bit of walking between sessions and break times. I served as camp pastor on Christian Life Week from 26th to 30th June at Tandara Lutheran Camp, Halls Gap. We had 51 kids on camp, supported by two directors, two pastors, two camp parents, and 15 other leaders. I also attended the Vic/Tas District Continuing Education Program at the Holy Cross Retreat Centre in Templestowe from 24th to 26th October.

The confirmation class that began before my arrival finished their lessons shortly after Easter. On Sunday 28th May we celebrated the confirmation of April Lade, Hannah Dewhirst, Jessica Hawkey, Aiden Lockerbie, Alexa Taylor, and Maddison Wiencke. The following Sunday we celebrated the confirmation of Sophia Kotzur, who was unable to attend with the rest of the group the week before. A new confirmation class began on Monday 31st July, with three registered students – Elijah Kinning, Ryan Klein, and Hamish Kotzur. Because the best day for this class to meet was Mondays, I shifted my day off to Tuesdays.

The year also had its fair share of grief and sadness as we farewelled seven members to their eternal heavenly home. Our last funeral held at Havelock St was Alf Bullock on 7th February. We then utilised a number of different venues as chosen by the bereaved families. At one point I noted that every funeral so far had been in a different location, with each bringing its own challenges to the planning process. Tuesday 30th May was the funeral for Melba Walsh in the Lester & Son Chapel Wodonga. Thursday 29th June was the funeral for Laurel McRae in the Lester & Son Chapel Albury, with Pastor Ernie Kiss officiating. Monday 31st July was the funeral for Ruth Frauenfelder at St Luke's Albury, with thanks to Pastor Graham Zweck for preaching at this service. Friday 4th August was the funeral for Barry Goyne, in the Conway Chapel Wodonga. Thursday 26th October was the funeral for Stephanie Roik at St Luke's Albury, with Pastor Ernie Kiss officiating. Monday 18th December was the funeral for Shirley Bullock in the Lester & Son Chapel Wodonga, with many thanks to Pastor Graham Zweck for taking the bulk of this service.

The year ended with our new church still in progress, and some slightly different Advent and Christmas services. We once again held an Advent dinner to mark the start of Advent and it was a very enjoyable evening. Due to worshipping in Luther Hall, we were somewhat restricted in our decorations for Christmas, but I think we made good use of the space. Thank you to our Lay Readers and others who helped run the services while I was afflicted with Bell's Palsy. Thankfully I had recovered enough by the end of the year to fulfill my duties as Best Man for Pastor Levi Graham in his wedding to Rose Vonow.

We know that 2024 will bring its own set of challenges, but also many joys as we move into our new church home. I pray that we will all receive our new space with thankfulness to God, and make good use of it in our ministry and mission. May you find rest and refreshment in our Lord Jesus, and be renewed to serve him and his church as the year unfolds.

Yours in Christ

Pastor Joshua Muller

Statistical Summary

Baptisms

Harper Keller – 12th March

Niall Mirtschin, Denver Mirtschin – 30th April

Marriages

Nil

First Communion

Nil

Confirmations

April Lade, Hannah Dewhirst, Jessica Hawkey, Aiden Lockerbie, Alexa Taylor, Maddison Wiencke – 28th May

Sophia Kotzur – 4th June

New Members

Wayne & Glynis Hart – 5th February

Funerals

Alf Bullock – 7th February at St John's (Havelock St)

Melba Walsh – 30th May at Lester & Son Chapel Wodonga

Maryke Agrella (VLC parent) – 24th June at St John's Anglican Wodonga

Laurel McRae – 29th June at Lester & Son Chapel Wodonga by Pastor Ernie Kiss

Ruth Frauenfelder – 31st July at St Luke's Albury by Pastor Joshua Muller and Pastor Graham Zweck

Barry Goyné – 4th August at Conway Chapel Wodonga

Stephanie Roik – 27th October at St Luke's Albury by Pastor Ernie Kiss

Shirley Bullock – 18th December at Lester & Son Chapel Wodonga by Pastor Graham Zweck and Pastor Joshua Muller

WODONGA LUTHERAN PARISH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT

To all Members of Wodonga Lutheran Parish

I am pleased to present the Treasurers Report for the financial year ending 31 December 2023.

This report provides an overview of our church's financial activities during the year.

It includes the audited financial statements, along with a proposed budget for 2024.

Financial Highlights for 2023:

1. Total offerings increased by 11.98% over the previous year. The total amount of \$124,920.70 was just under our budget. This is an excellent result given the difficult economic environment over the last 12 months and our relocation of services to the College. Many thanks to all members for your continuing support.
2. The building of the new church and manse continued through the year with all progress claims being paid from a combination of parish funds and a loan from Alatalo Bros. These projects will conclude in the first half of 2024. This will enable us to settle back into more "routine" operations and commence the work to build our membership, which is important for future sustainability.
3. The audited result for the year shows a net income of \$1,279,081, however this includes the sale proceeds from the Havelock St property. After adjusting for this, the Parish incurred a net operating loss of \$21,983 for the year (\$4,378 profit in 2022). A copy of the audit report and financial statements is enclosed.
4. The following summary shows the key differences between the two years:

Extra costs in 2023:

Employment of a Pastor for the full year	\$67,423
Reduction of rental income after selling Havelock St Property	\$10,629
Increase in rental costs for manse	<u>\$10,156</u>
	\$88,208

Offset by:

Special donation received	\$10,000
Increase in Offerings	\$13,365
Property cost savings after sale of Havelock St	\$ 8,949
Net benefit in Transfer Fund	\$19,915
No security fencing costs this year	\$ 2,680
Lower LCA levies, Vic District, student gifts	\$ 3,812
Net other items + and -	<u>\$ 3,126</u>
	\$61,847
Net Variance between 2022 and 2023	\$26,361

There have been many changes in the 2023 year and the budget for 2024 continues this change. The first full year of "normal" operations will be the 2025 year.

5. The Balance Sheet (Statement of Position) shows Net Equity of \$2,008,899.04. Most of this value is in the land and new buildings.
A valuation of buildings has been obtained for insurance purposes. However, this value cannot be used in the financial statements. The statements show all amounts at historical cost. Once the buildings are fully completed, we will obtain a valuation for financial reporting purposes.

6. Cash held in the bank at 31 December 2023 was \$327,000.96. The cash on hand has been intentionally retained to enable final furniture and fit-out costs to be paid, and to cover any future budget deficits as we build membership and establish alternative income streams over the years 2024-2026.
7. The loan from Alatalo Bros shown on the Balance Sheet represents progress claims that have been paid by loan, rather than cash. Borrowing from Alatalo Bros is closely monitored to ensure we get the balance right between retaining cash for operational purposes and minimising the loan.
8. Please note that, although not shown separately in the Balance Sheet, the Bank Account does include \$1,000 received some years ago as a designated gift. These funds are available for specific use.

In summary, the 2023 year can be described as a year of transition. This has continued in 2024. The culmination of many years of planning and praying has led us to this point in time. It is now up to us to use the skills and abilities of our people and maximise the resources of the church, to proclaim the good news, fulfill our purpose, and enhance the sustainability of the Wodonga Lutheran Parish.

Our church remains financially stable, thanks to the continued support and generosity of members. In particular, I wish to acknowledge, on behalf of the church, the memorandum of understanding and loan arrangement with Alatalo Bros. This arrangement underpins the decision of members to take a leap of faith and commit to pursuing growth in the Parish, not for our sake, but to be ambassadors for Christ and share the gospel with more people.

Budget – 2024

Looking ahead, the Parish Council has discussed the budget with the primary purpose of managing finances responsibly, ensuring that our resources are allocated efficiently to support our mission and ministry. The budget is the first step in a 3-year plan to explore opportunities for growth and expansion while maintaining a strong financial foundation.

The budget for 2024 shows a net loss of \$35,720, an increase of \$13,737 over the 2023-year result.

An increased loss was anticipated when considering the initial impact of organisational changes and resourcing the new church. A notional \$45,000 was set aside within cash reserves to cover any deficit in 2024.

The major “one-off” expenses which contribute to the increased loss are:

Termination Payment to employee	\$8,448.50
Valuation of Buildings	\$3,300.00

Page 3 of the budget highlights the key assumptions sitting behind the numbers. Detailed workpapers have been prepared to assist with calculations in the future.

The medium-term **budget objective** is to initially consolidate operations under the new structure with achievable increases in membership. This work will then be built upon in 2025 and 2026 as part of a 3-year plan to be finalised this year. This plan will marry a financial strategy with the ministry strategy.

I look forward to working with all members to grow a sustainable church that reaches out, and welcomes in, many people from the school and Wodonga community.



Yours in Christ,
Ron Asquith - Treasurer

**WODONGA LUTHERAN PARISH
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER 2023**

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WODONGA LUTHERAN PARISH - Income & Expenditure Statement - Last year
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Category Description	1/01/2022- 31/12/2022	1/01/2023- 31/12/2023
INCOME		
Charitable Collections		
ALWS		
Other Charitable Collections:ALWS	0.00	455.50
TOTAL ALWS	0.00	455.50
Bibles For Victory	573.00	40.00
Other Charitable Collections	0.00	230.00
TOTAL Charitable Collections	573.00	725.50
Donations		
Funeral	0.00	50.00
TOTAL Donations	0.00	50.00
Interest Received	36.70	11,026.07
LLL		
Deposit		
Interest Free Giving	225.76	0.00
TOTAL Deposit	225.76	0.00
TOTAL LLL	225.76	0.00
Miscellaneous Income		
Catering	0.00	900.00
Devotion Book	416.00	400.00
Donation	0.00	10,000.00
LLL Anniversary Grant	2,500.00	0.00
Name Tags	304.00	50.00
Ps Joshua's Transfer	5,325.57	0.00
Rental Income - Manse	15,793.58	5,164.83
Sale of Land & Buildings - Havelock St	0.00	1,301,064.75
Sale Of Parish Furniture	1,000.00	40.00
Savers Corner	151.91	0.00
St Marks	651,272.47	0.00
Year Books	72.00	0.00
Other Miscellaneous Income	0.00	1,065.00
TOTAL Miscellaneous Income	676,835.53	1,318,684.58
Offering		
REG	71,662.78	83,372.80
Special		

WODONGA LUTHERAN PARISH - Income & Expenditure Statement - Last year
 1/01/2022 through 31/12/2023 (in Aus. Dollars) (Cash Basis)

Category Description	1/01/2022- 31/12/2022	1/01/2023- 31/12/2023
Ash Wednesday	140.00	520.00
Christmas	1,433.45	0.00
Easter	1,683.30	0.00
TOTAL Special	3,256.75	520.00
St John's-Sunday	36,636.05	40,807.90
Synod	0.00	220.00
TOTAL Offering	111,555.58	124,920.70
TOTAL INCOME	789,226.57	1,455,406.85
EXPENSES		
Uncategorised	0.00	0.00
Appeals		
ALWS		
Other Appeals:ALWS	0.00	455.50
TOTAL ALWS	0.00	455.50
Bibles For Victory	573.00	0.00
TOTAL Appeals	573.00	455.50
Appliances		
Washing Machine		
Other Appliances:Washing Machine	0.00	190.91
TOTAL Washing Machine	0.00	190.91
TOTAL Appliances	0.00	190.91
Buildings		
Cattanach Way		
Rates	0.00	420.55
TOTAL Cattanach Way	0.00	420.55
Church		
Cleaning	540.00	0.00
Electricity Use	1,434.01	716.79
Gas Use	791.77	342.76
Repairs	358.41	0.00
TOTAL Church	3,124.19	1,059.55
Hall		
Electricity Use	575.04	329.74
Gas Use	533.69	314.79
TOTAL Hall	1,108.73	644.53

WODONGA LUTHERAN PARISH - Income & Expenditure Statement - Last year
 1/01/2022 through 31/12/2023 (in Aus. Dollars) (Cash Basis)

Category Description	1/01/2022-31/12/2022	1/01/2023-31/12/2023
Havelock St Plant		
CFA	368.36	81.00
Electrical Work	0.00	217.04
Grounds	0.00	521.70
Insurance	5,144.16	1,374.96
Rates		
Water	2,034.72	498.70
Other Buildings:Havelock St Plant:Rates	394.50	299.70
TOTAL Rates	2,429.22	798.40
Signage	0.00	150.00
TOTAL Havelock St Plant	7,941.74	3,143.10
Insurance	0.00	1,205.14
Manse		
Electricity	0.00	52.75
Insurance	2,020.19	602.57
Maintenance	450.00	0.00
TOTAL Manse	2,470.19	655.32
Plant & Equipment	0.00	656.09
Rates		
Water	0.00	1,053.64
TOTAL Rates	0.00	1,053.64
Yackandandah		
Electricity Use	355.02	0.00
Insurance	161.10	0.00
Maintenance	0.00	180.00
Rates		
Water	238.81	0.00
Other Buildings:Yackandandah:Rates	122.00	0.00
TOTAL Rates	360.81	0.00
Real Estate Agent Fees	2,445.46	0.00
TOTAL Yackandandah	3,322.39	180.00
TOTAL Buildings	17,967.24	9,017.92
Fellowship		
Morning Tea Supplies	280.49	244.59
TOTAL Fellowship	280.49	244.59
Funeral		

WODONGA LUTHERAN PARISH - Income & Expenditure Statement - Last year
 1/01/2022 through 31/12/2023 (in Aus. Dollars) (Cash Basis)

Category Description	1/01/2022-31/12/2022	1/01/2023-31/12/2023
Expenses	0.00	588.18
TOTAL Funeral	0.00	588.18
Gifts		
Other Gifts	0.00	200.00
TOTAL Gifts	0.00	200.00
Interest Charged	0.00	3,706.35
LCA		
Administration Fee	5.00	6.00
Attendance Fee	0.00	131.82
Core Workshop Training	50.00	5.00
Funds Levy	4,572.00	3,492.00
Synod		
Offering	0.00	220.00
TOTAL Synod	0.00	220.00
Synod 2022		
Accommodation	0.00	421.82
TOTAL Synod 2022	0.00	421.82
Transfer Fund	25,240.21	0.00
Vic Dist		
2022 Convention Delegate	525.00	0.00
Budget	8,050.00	7,500.00
Pastors conference	189.00	0.00
Workcover		
Pastor	0.00	1,415.60
TOTAL Workcover	0.00	1,415.60
TOTAL Vic Dist	8,764.00	8,915.60
Other LCA	0.00	164.27
TOTAL LCA	38,631.21	13,356.51
Locum	0.00	0.00
Mission		
VLC	2,181.82	0.00
Student Gifts	2,181.82	0.00
TOTAL VLC	2,181.82	0.00
TOTAL Mission	2,181.82	0.00
Nurture		
Baptism Material	0.00	77.64

WODONGA LUTHERAN PARISH - Income & Expenditure Statement - Last year
 1/01/2022 through 31/12/2023 (in Aus. Dollars) (Cash Basis)

Category Description	1/01/2022- 31/12/2022	1/01/2023- 31/12/2023
First Communion	0.00	88.88
TOTAL Nurture	0.00	166.52
Office Advertising		
Other Office:Advertising	0.00	301.50
TOTAL Advertising	0.00	301.50
Audit	1,210.00	1,480.00
Computer		
Broadband Connection	842.75	301.80
Cartridge	52.64	52.64
TOTAL Computer	895.39	354.44
Internet	0.00	364.95
Petty Cash	362.86	353.36
Phone		
Other Office:Phone	20.42	0.00
TOTAL Phone	20.42	0.00
Photocopier		
Copies	668.83	936.19
Lease	1,951.25	2,015.77
Relocation	262.40	0.00
TOTAL Photocopier	2,882.48	2,951.96
Reckon Software	218.18	231.82
TOTAL Office	5,569.33	6,038.03
Pastor Accomodation		
Bond	1,680.00	0.00
Rent	11,683.64	21,840.00
Water	0.00	289.52
TOTAL Accomodation	13,363.64	22,129.52
TOTAL Pastor	13,363.64	22,129.52
Pastor - Locum	0.00	296.14
Pastor Muller		
Fringe Benefits	2,093.16	32,152.38
Salary & Allowances	21,980.53	53,733.45
Superannuation	3,819.09	9,430.13
TOTAL Pastor Muller	27,892.78	95,315.96

WODONGA LUTHERAN PARISH - Income & Expenditure Statement - Last year
 1/01/2022 through 31/12/2023 (in Aus. Dollars) (Cash Basis)

Category Description	1/01/2022- 31/12/2022	1/01/2023- 31/12/2023
Purchases for R'ment		
Advent Dinner	55.13	0.00
Conf Books	0.00	140.85
Courier	144.55	0.00
District Synod	301.82	0.00
General Synod	145.00	0.00
Gift	0.00	31.82
Gift Vouchers	300.00	0.00
GPC	300.00	0.00
Office Flags	0.00	43.00
Parish Council Christmas Dinner	40.83	0.00
Pastor's Christmas Present	99.46	0.00
Welcome Lunch	87.17	0.00
Year Books	94.78	320.00
Other Purchases for R'ment	0.00	22.73
TOTAL Purchases for R'ment	1,568.74	558.40
Redevelopment		
Security Fencing	2,680.00	0.00
TOTAL Redevelopment	2,680.00	0.00
Secretary		
HRS Fees	430.10	572.00
Salary		
Other Secretary:Salary	18,691.66	19,917.19
TOTAL Salary	18,691.66	19,917.19
Superannuation	1,917.12	2,142.44
Workcover	215.65	352.11
TOTAL Secretary	21,254.53	22,983.74
Worship		
Antibacterial Wipes	11.77	0.00
Baptismal Certificates	18.14	0.00
CCLI	228.18	240.00
Communion Cups	154.00	0.00
Copyright Licence	166.36	174.55
Denominational Licence	148.36	152.00
Freight(ACR)	23.68	14.55
Godparent Card	9.09	0.00

WODONGA LUTHERAN PARISH - Statement of Financial Position - As of 31/12/2023
As of 31/12/2023 (in Aus. Dollars) (Cash Basis)

Account	31/12/2022 Balance	31/12/2023 Balance
ASSETS		
Cash and Bank Accounts		
LLL Account	721,309.54	261,392.62
Parish Account	1,623.70	65,608.68
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	722,933.24	327,001.30
Other Assets		
New Church Development	0.00	2,352,368.15
New Manse	0.00	206,381.27
Undeposited Offerings	0.00	2,597.20
TOTAL Other Assets	0.00	2,561,346.62
TOTAL ASSETS	722,933.24	2,888,347.92
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
LIABILITIES		
Credit Cards		
Ps Muller's Maxxia Account	-8,359.41	-1,233.07
TOTAL Credit Cards	-8,359.41	-1,233.07
Other Liabilities		
Employees Tax Deductions	0.00	0.00
Loan - Alatalo Bros	0.00	1,003,399.00
Payroll Clearing Account	2,112.00	2,412.00
Tax Control	-636.95	-125,129.05
TOTAL Other Liabilities	1,475.05	880,681.95
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-6,884.36	879,448.88
EQUITY	729,817.60	2,008,899.04
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	722,933.24	2,888,347.92

WODONGA LUTHERAN PARISH - Income & Expenditure Statement - Last year
1/01/2022 through 31/12/2023 (in Aus. Dollars) (Cash Basis)

Category Description	1/01/2022- 31/12/2022	1/01/2023- 31/12/2023
Grow Ministries	0.00	50.00
My Baptism Book	63.64	0.00
Name badges	319.00	47.00
Offering Envelopes	220.50	211.00
Performing Arts Lic	86.36	89.09
Wafers	143.36	98.95
TOTAL Worship	1,592.44	1,077.14
TOTAL EXPENSES	133,575.22	176,325.41
OVERALL TOTAL	655,651.35	1,279,081.44

WODONGA LUTHERAN PARISH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared for use by the church council. The church council has determined that the company is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the following Australian Accounting Standards:

- AAS 1 :Profit and Loss Accounts
- AAS 5 :Materiality
- AAS 8 :Events Occurring after Reporting Date.

No other Australian Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Consensus View or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial report is prepared on cash basis and only takes account of current assets and liabilities.



INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To:

The Members, Wodonga Lutheran Parish

Scope

We have audited the attached financial report, consisting of Income & Expenditure Statement, Statement of Financial Position & Notes to the Accounts of Wodonga Lutheran Parish for the year ended 31st December 2023. The Parish Council is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial report and the information contained therein, and has determined that the accounting policies used are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Parish's constitution, and are appropriate to the needs of the members. I have conducted an independent audit of the report in order to express an opinion on it to the members. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used comply with the constitution or are appropriate to the needs of members.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to the members. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this audit report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any other purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards applicable to the audit of special purpose financial reports. Audit procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the report. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the report is presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in the notes to the report. (These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and UIG Consensus Views).

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Qualification

As is common for organizations of this type, it is not practicable for Wodonga Lutheran Parish to maintain an effective system of internal control over donations, offerings and other fundraising activities until their initial entry in the accounting records.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE: PO BOX 133, WODONGA, VIC, 3689
91 HUME STREET, WODONGA, VIC, 3690
TELEPHONE: (02) 6024 1655
EMAIL: stm@st-m.com.au
ABN 92 384 593 741

Stewart Tracy & Mylon
is a CPA Practice



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Accordingly, we are unable to report whether all monies received have been recorded in the books of the Parish, although we have no reason to suspect that they have not been recorded. The Statement of Financial Position as presented is restricted to Current Assets and Current Liabilities, and we therefore cannot verify existence to any assets of the organisation, other than amounts held in bank accounts.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, except for the matter referred to in the qualification paragraph, the financial report presents a fair and true view of the financial position of the Parish as at 31st December 2023 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with applicable Statements of Accounting Concepts and applicable Accounting Standards.



.....
**Craig Hollis CPA
Stewart Tracy and Mylon
WODONGA VIC.**

19th March 2024

WODONGA LUTHERAN PARISH - BUDGET
Year ended 31 December 2024

INCOME	Note	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
OFFERINGS	1		
REG: LLL		83,372.80	88,861.50
St John's Church		41,327.90	60,005.40
Other		0.00	0.00
		124,700.70	148,866.90
MISSION AND MINISTRY			
<u>Charitable Collections</u>	2		
Bibles for Victory		40.00	200.00
Other Appeals		685.50	500.00
		725.50	700.00
<u>Donations</u>	3		
Funeral		50.00	0.00
Other Donations		10,000.00	2,500.00
		10,050.00	2,500.00
<u>Grants</u>	4		
Grant for Ministry Coordinator		0.00	25,000.00
		0.00	25,000.00
FACILITIES	5		
Hall Hire & Functions		0.00	2,000.00
GENERAL INCOME			
Year Books, Books, Name Tags etc.		670.00	750.00
Manse Rental Income		7,169.83	0.00
		7,839.83	750.00
INTEREST INCOME	6		
Interest Free Giving		5,190.47	5,200.00
Interest Received		5,835.60	3,000.00
		11,026.07	8,200.00
TOTAL INCOME		154,342.10	188,016.90
Increase 2023 to 2024 (includes grant)			21.82%
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (Page 2 & 3)		176,325.41	223,737.14
NET OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)		-21,983.31	-35,720.24

WODONGA LUTHERAN PARISH - BUDGET
Year ended 31 December 2024

EXPENDITURE	Note	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
PARISH STAFF			
	7		
Salaries		73,650.64	114,015.56
Superannuation		11,572.57	16,285.26
FB & Allowances		32,152.38	25,988.58
Workcover Premium		1,767.71	1,688.12
Other		0.00	0.00
Termination Payments		0.00	8,448.50
HRS Fee		572.00	572.00
		119,715.30	166,998.02
MISSION AND MINISTRY			
	8		
LCA Funds Levy + admin fee		3,492.00	3,605.00
Synod & Convention		641.82	550.00
LCA Victoria Contribution		7,500.00	7,500.00
Other, training, books, morn tea supplies		545.68	1,100.00
		12,179.50	12,755.00
WORSHIP EXPENSES			
CCLI - Licences		655.64	657.00
Offering Envelopes		211.00	220.00
Wafers		98.95	100.00
Bapt Literature/stationary		166.52	200.00
Other costs (eg freight, candles)		931.32	950.00
		2,063.43	2,127.00
APPEALS			
Bibles and Other		455.50	700.00
FACILITIES			
<u>Church</u>			
	9		
Electricity		716.79	2,509.52
Gas		342.76	1,187.66
Insurance		2,580.10	8,000.00
Maintenance, Cleaning, Grounds		0.00	5,400.00
		3,639.65	17,097.17
<u>Hall & Yackandandah</u>			
Electricity, Gas, Maintenance		824.53	0.00
<u>Manse</u>			
	10		
Insurance		602.57	1,200.00
Rates		720.25	1,600.00
Water		1,552.34	1,000.00
Rental and Bond		22,129.52	6,300.00
Other (eg signage, maintenance)		1,678.58	750.00
		26,683.26	10,850.00

ADMINISTRATION	11		
Auditor		1,480.00	1,600.00
Computer Broadband/Phone		719.39	1,500.00
First Communion/Confirmation		50.00	500.00
Petty Cash		353.36	720.00
Valuation fee		0.00	3,300.00
Photocopier/Printer		2,951.96	3,689.95
Stationery/Supplies/Year Books		460.85	650.00
Other office expenses (eg archives)		810.51	1,000.00
Reckon Licence (Book keeping)		231.82	250.00
Interest paid		3,706.35	0.00
		<u>10,764.24</u>	<u>13,209.95</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	12	176,325.41	223,737.14
Increase 2023 to 2024			26.89%

NOTES TO THE BUDGET - ASSUMPTIONS

- 1 An increase in membership over the 2024 has been included:
REG - 2 additional contributors | St Johns - regular attendance increased by 20
Average giving has been increased by 5%
- 2 Charitable collections are also shown as disbursements with nil effect on the budget
- 3 Special donations have been reduced as a one-off generous donation was received in 2023
This line item reflects the introduction of a "gift in wills" strategy
- 4 A one-off grant received from the LLL to support the new ministry coordinator role
- 5 Promotion of the hall and kitchen is expected to generate revenue - est, 10 x \$200
- 6 Interest free giving from LLL Depositors will be maintained
Interest income is calculated using an average balance at the LLL of \$150,000
- 7 Staff costs includes termination payment & a special gift in recognition of service
- 8 Giving to LCA (Vic District) included at the same rate as 2023 - \$7,500
This may need to be reconsidered depending on budget performance during the year
- 9 Insurance & Maintenance (predominantly cleaning) costs are estimated
Insurance valuations have been received with insurance cover and premium received after handover
Maintenance costs includes regular cleaning
- 10 Manse rental costs calculated until the property is vacated - expected by mid April 2024
- 11 General office outgoings will increase due to higher activity
No interest will be paid separately to loan reductions in 2024
A valuation is required for insurance purposes
- 12 "One -Off" expenses include terminations payments and the Valuation Fee
Core budget expenditure is \$211,989 which represents an increase of 20.2% over the previous year

WODONGA LUTHERAN PARISH
Balance Sheet Forecast - 2024

	31/12/2023	31/12/2024
	Actual	Forecast
LLL Bank Account	261,392.62	264,801.21
Westpac Account	65,608.68	50,000.00
Church Development Costs	2,352,368.15	3,296,052.62
Manse Land & Building	206,381.27	603,631.27
Undeposited Offerings	2,597.20	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	2,888,347.92	4,214,485.11
Maxima Acc	-1,233.07	-1,233.07
Loan - Alatalo Bros	1,003,399.00	2,238,115.38
Payroll Clearing Account	2,412.00	4,424.00
Sale of Properties (Gain)	0.00	0.00
Tax Control	-125,129.05	0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	879,448.88	2,241,306.31
EQUITY	2,008,899.04	1,973,178.80

EQUITY

Balance as at 31 December 2023	2,008,899.04
Loss from operations	<u>-35,720.24</u>
Balance as at 31 December 2024	<u>1,973,178.80</u>

CASH AT BANK

Opening Balance	327,001.30
Closing Balance	<u>314,801.21</u>
Movement	<u>-12,200.09</u>

VALUE OF BUILDINGS

Values shown at cost
Valuation for Insurance purposes is higher

Report Redevelopment

Wodonga Lutheran Parish March AGM 2024

- It has been over a year now since we turned the first sod on the new Church site, at this time of year in 2022.
- The construction has worked well over the past year, we are now close to a conclusion given this AGM in 2024.
- One of the other questions posed at the time of the last AGM was of course the manse and what we should do about that. As we now know we decided to build a new house for the Pastor. This too is now nearing completion in Leneva. We are told late April for hand over.
- The Havelock (old church) site is being worked on by the Alatalo contractors at the time of this report. Ground works are well under way. This is the beginning of 18 units to be built on site.

- Regarding the Church site there have been moments of frustration as well as joy when things come together. We still have a few loose ends to tie up as I write this report, the biggest of which is the connection and commissioning of the power to the church.

- We are simply waiting on Ausnet to do their thing in their own time; however, we are continuing to complete the loose ends in the meantime. Furniture will be delivered to site over the next week in preparation for a soft opening at the end of March prior to the AGM.

- The Alatalo's along with their contractors have been a great team to work with, always obliging with nothing too hard to overcome. The quality of the building meets our expectations to a tee.

- The other thing of note is the fact that the Subdivision has yet to happen and wont until all the issues around the construction of the church have been signed off with certificates issued on completion of the build. The mechanisms are in place for the registration of the Subdivision as soon as the occupancy certificate is issued. We do not expect registration of title to be an issue when the time comes.

- The MOU between the College and St John's is currently being looked as the way forward when it comes to sharing the church space with the College. We do thank the College for allowing over the many months for us to have the use of Luther Hall for our church services. It has been a blessing to us to have been able to use this facility.

In His service

Tim McInnes

Development Committee

ANNUAL TREASURERS REPORT
 ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN LADIES' GUILD WODONGA
 1/1/23- 31/12/23

INCOME

EXPENDITURE

LLL Cr Balance B/F	345.23	LW Magazine	420.00
CBA Cr Balance B/F	192.79	LWV Affiliations Fees '23	208.00
LLL Interest	5.36	'24	195.00
Donations	1241.50	Donations LWV	100.00
Affiliations Fees	241.00	ALWS	273.00
LW Magazine Subs	408.00	LW Projects	<u>1150.00</u>
ALWS Donations	<u>273.00</u>		2346.00
	2706.88	Cr LLL 31/12/23	350.59
		Cr CBA 31/12/23	<u>10.29</u>
			2706.88

Submitted by Sheryl Parsons (Treasurer)

Audited by C.Elies (CA) 11/3/2024

**WODONGA LUTHERAN LADIES' FELLOWSHIP
PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

January – December 2023

Wodonga Lutheran Ladies' Fellowship has continued for another year, from February to December 2023, on the first Wednesday of each month.

We start each meeting with a "Getting to Know You" segment at 10am.

This is followed by a Bible Study taken from the "Lutheran Women of Australia's magazine. In 2023, these studies all concentrated on the different Fruits of the Spirit. We thank Pastor Joshua Muller for leading most of these, and Pastor Ernie Kiss for leading the July and October studies.

A short business meeting then occurs, and we finish at about 12 noon.

Then some of us stay later for a social lunch together.

In our meetings, we usually have about 7 women attending, plus Pastor. We were delighted to welcome one of the Wodonga Gardens Retirement Estate residents to join us for our Bible Studies in the second half of the year.

We would love to see more women come and join us in 2024.

Not every meeting is exactly the same.

In March we attended the Lenten Service in the Havelock St Church instead of having our normal Bible Study, and then made Baptismal Birthday cards for children who have been baptised in our church over the last 5 years.

In May we had Guest Speaker Joel Klemke talk about his job of Victory College chaplain.

In June we had our winter meeting in the nice warm home of one of our members, followed by a communal hot lunch.

In December we had our Christmas Breakup luncheon at Edward's Tavern, inviting members of our congregation.

After the closure of our Havelock St church building, we were given permission to have our meetings at the community centre in Wodonga Gardens Retirement Estate, where we have been "camping" since July. We look forward to being able to meet in our new church building within the next few months.

Some members attended other related events such as Lavington Ladies' Guild Morning Tea with Guest Speaker, and the World Day of Prayer.

We remember members and friends when they have birthdays, and this year we sent 5 cards to those who were had significant birthdays.

At each meeting, we give a free will offering. This year, we were thus able to donate to:

- various LWA projects – \$900
- various LWVic/Tas projects -\$250
- Walk my Way project - \$26

We also thank congregation members for

- the donations of \$247 given at our Christmas Breakup, that we were able to send to ALWS.

We pray that we will grow more in Christ during 2024

Margaret Burkert

President

Wodonga Lutheran Ladies' Fellowship

MUSIC MINISTRY COORDINATOR'S REPORT FOR 2023

During 2023 services were supported by live playing, the band, or music embedded in the Power point presentations. Ps Josh and I have worked together to choose a blended style of hymns and songs, also introducing new songs to enhance the message throughout the seasons of the Church year.

Joyful Noise (church band)

The band has been playing the first Sunday of the month with Celebrating Communion in Song. Practices were held every Tuesday night and then, once we moved to Luther Hall, they were held before the service.

Highlights were playing for the final service at Havelock St and the Christmas Carols night at VLC.

Current members of Joyful Noise are: Paul Vogelsang (trumpet), Mel Keller (guitar), Nicole Keller (singer) Daniel Roik (bongos/drums), Rolf Egeberg (drums), and Susan Edwards (keyboard). I would like to thank Peter Vogelsang for filling in on drums on occasions.

Ongoing Matters:

Christian Copyright, Music Reproduction and Performance Licences are all up to date and reporting on song usage has been done as needed.

Research into new music/hymns/songs is ongoing. If you have a suggestion, please let me know.

Appeal:

Musicians and singers are always welcome to contact me, come and have a play at band practice (once we are moved in to our new "home") and see how you go. We are not professionals, just people using our gifts the best that we can to glorify our Saviour!

God bless,

Susan Edwards, Music Ministry Co-ordinator. 0429 166161

Parish/College Mission and Ministry Report

This committee has met regularly on a monthly basis over the past twelve months.

- The highlight of the year was the **'Walk My Way' ALWS fundraiser** held on the 14th October 2023, to raise funds so that children in East Africa could have an education. The walk was from Bonegilla Migrant Camp to Victory Lutheran College. Funds raised were over the expected \$10,000 goal with the Parish contributing \$2,000 from their walkers.
- Every Friday morning after Primary Chapel **morning tea** is served by members of the Parish.
- Members of the Parish operated the College's coffee machine from 3.30pm to 7.00pm 14th September to offer coffee to parents and staff at the **Parent/Teacher Interviews**.
- Members from the Parish meet every Tuesday morning in the College library to **cover books**.
- Members of the Parish/College Mission & Ministry assisted with organizing the **Carols at the College** on 6th December 2023. The Parish band was involved in the playing of several carols.
- Parish members were invited to the **end of year service** and also to the awards presentation.
- Staff and students have offered to assist with the serving of afternoon tea at the official **opening and consecration of our new church**.

There will be many occasions in the coming year for the Parish and College to interact with each other, not only in our new building but on the College premises.

The students and parents have watched our church being built and now that the fence has gone there is great excitement. One parent from the neighbourhood said to me 'I just can't wait to see inside!' Staff too are excited to see inside but also to bring their students over for a look and later in the year for worship.

As the Parish and College have worked together over the past year our efforts have been blest. It is important that we continue to strengthen and encourage each other as we fulfill God's command in Matthew 28 v18 – 20. "All power in heaven and on earth is given to me. So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptise them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything that I have taught you, and I will be with you always, even until the end of this age".

Humbly submitted

Jenny Simboras

On behalf of the Parish/College Mission and Ministry

Worship Committee Report for AGM Book Of Reports

As a worship committee we have deliberated over every little aspect associated with our worship services, including visitors cards, children's activities, rosters, displays, etc.

With the temporary relocation to Victory Lutheran College (VLC) in May 2023 came many challenges:

- We had to decide which items we absolutely had to take for regular worship services and which items could remain in storage for a while
- We negotiated with VLC with regard to the use of Luther Hall
 - : Storage spaces
 - : Set up times
 - : Pack down expectations
 - : Opening and lock up procedures, etc.
- We had to work out how our sound and PA systems would work on the VLC system
- Rosters and lists of duties for ushering, communion set up and serving, opening and closing the building, morning tea, etc were rewritten to suit our temporary location.

We are especially grateful for the small band of helpers who were able to set up Luther Hall on a Friday afternoon for worship services. Having the worship space set up and the sound system working on a Friday afternoon made for a seamless, hassle free start to Sunday services.

A special thankyou to everyone who has assisted by serving on rosters, packing away chairs, serving morning tea and many other areas. Thanks to you all for your support and adaptability while we worshipped in Luther Hall.

With the impending transition to our new Church building the Worship Committee has been anticipating the requirements and procedures needing to be put in place once we move in.

- Rosters and procedures will once again change and need updating
- We recognize that new duties will need to be implemented
- There will be a request for more parishioners to assist in any little way they can

The Worship Committee has attended to the special details for particular church celebrations in the form of special service orders, displays, decorations, handouts etc. all within the parameters of worshipping in Luther Hall.

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| - Confirmation | - All Saints Day | - Thanksgiving |
| - Reformation | - Christmas | - Victory Sunday |
| - Easter | - Advent Dinner | |

Our time in Luther Hall has been a blessing!

We now look forward to planning worship events in our new church!

Planning for the Opening service for our new church is complete. (At the time of writing, we are just waiting for an opening date!) Planning worship and the associated aspects in a new space is challenging, but we are so excited about it! We ask for your patience, assistance and suggestions.

This also means reinstating some activities that were difficult to undertake in our temporary mode in Luther Hall, and expanding on practices already begun.

Thanks to all of you for your support, adaptability and willingness over the past twelve months.

Rhonda Keller

On behalf of the worship Committee:

Pastor Joshua, Jenny Simboras, Sheryl Parsons, Susan Edwards, Laurel Wiencke

PASTORAL ASSISTANTS REPORT 2023

Pastor Joshua has worked closely with us this year again and we have met on a regular basis. Sheryl was away for quite a few months which meant Sue was on call.

We had made a total of approximately 90 phone calls, following up on members and arranging many visits with Pastor.

As lay assistants we help to schedule “visits” for Pastor in between his other duties according to his timetable.

We would encourage anyone who would like a visit with Pastor to please contact us. Members are inclined to think that Pastor is “too busy” to see them or that they are “not important enough” to take up his time. We would say this is not the case.

Please contact us if you need to see Pastor, it needs to be 1st hand- do not assume “we know what is happening” as we only pay attention to 1st hand information.

Visits will happen at an opportune time for Pastor. The only change to this is when they are urgent. You may contact either of us or Pastor directly, if the matter is urgent.

Pastor would also appreciate an invitation on a casual basis ie “just to get to know you” – for a piece of cake, beverage, or a meal.

It has been a privilege for us both to be able to respond to requests for visits and to have conversations on many varied subjects.

We hope that Jesus has been evident in the times that we have spent with you, and that we have helped in bringing you into closer relationship with Him.

Submitted by Sheryl Parsons and Sue Housego

New Business

Nominations – Wodonga Lutheran Parish 2024

Paul told the Thessalonians, “Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, and are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other” (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)

Position	Nominee	Remarks
Parish Council Executive		
Chairperson	Alex Sweetman	
Vice Chairperson	<i>vacant</i>	
Secretary	Wayne Hart	
Treasurer	Ron Asquith	
Parish Council Members		No set number of members
Continuing Member	Pastor Ernie Kiss	
Continuing Member	Tim McInnes	
Continuing Member	Mel Keller	
Continuing Member	Claire Roennfeldt	
Consultants (ex officio)	Pastor Joshua Muller	Parish Pastor
	John Thompson	Victory Lutheran College Principal
	Adrian Gutsche	Victory Lutheran College Board Chairperson
Pastoral Assistants		At least three required
	Sheryl Parsons	Continuing term
	Sue Housego	Re-election
	<i>vacant</i>	
Lay Readers		At least two required
	Phillip Edwards	
	John Donker	
Property Committee		Three required
	Peter Lade	
	Rhonda Keller	
	Tim McInnes	
Worship Committee		No set number of members
	Rhonda Keller	
	Susan Edwards	
	Sheryl Parsons	
	Jenny Simboras	
	Laurel Wiencke	
Persons of Responsibility		
Safe Church Coordinator	Carolyn Kiss	
Music Coordinator	Susan Edwards	
International Mission	Jan Farrell	Link Member
International Mission	Ingrid Harder	Stamp Collector
LLL Representative	Kerrie Donker	
Other Groups		For endorsement only
Women's Fellowship Executive	Margaret Burkert Lenore de Garis Sheryl Parsons	President Secretary Treasurer
Parish/College Mission and Ministry	Jenny Simboras John Thompson Joel Klemke Sheryl Parsons Lisa Enever Claire Roennfeldt Mel Keller Jason Zweck Jonathan Schmidt Janine Hallahan	