

Western Pacific District News



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From the desk of District Apostle Schulte



Dear brothers and sisters

Early in May 2020 Chief Apostle Schneider estimated that 98% of New Apostolic Christians were unable to attend church and celebrate Holy Communion. He felt this situation was probably unique in the history of our church. During the World War eras there was disruption to divine services. The Old Testament reports times of great disruption to worship. Our Chief Apostle used the example of the inhabitants of Jerusalem deported to Babylon. They were helpless because they could no longer go to the temple and worship as the Lord had commanded them.

We are very thankful that during this pandemic, even though we have been unable to gather in our churches, with the technology available to us we have still been able to come under the word using streamed services online. These services have been greatly appreciated and supported by our church community.

As good as the streamed divine services are, they fall short of physically going to church and partaking of the sacrament of Holy Communion. Worthy partaking of Holy Communion allows us to be in fellowship with Christ and to develop in the image of Christ. Fellowship of Christ is lived out in the fellowship of the Church. It is inseparable from the fellowship of the faithful and those baptised in Christ are called to be together and work together. Fellowship consists of coming together to worship, praise, pray and celebrate God together. Chief Apostle Fehr often stated the reality that "there is no substitute for the divine service".

Noah and his family were in the ark for approximately one year while the earth as he knew it was flooded. When the time came to leave the confines of the ark with the wish of God to "be fruitful and multiply on the earth", we read in Genesis 8:20 that Noah built an altar to the Lord and offered. Verse 21 indicates that Noah's desire and actions pleased the Lord greatly. As we now transition away from the confines of COVID-19 restrictions, let's embrace the opportunity to show our thankfulness to God as Noah did, through gathering at his altar to worship, praise and offer.

For approximately four years streamed services have been available to our remote and special circumstance members. These replaced the bread letter which provided soul care for many years to those who could not gather in church. I can confirm that it is our intention to continue streamed services online which will be available to everyone. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have been involved and have contributed to the success of our streamed services over the past years and during these last months. This is just another beautiful example of how people are willing to offer their time and talents to help in the Lord's work.

With loving greetings

Peter Schulte

District Apostle in New Zealand

Earlier this year the District Apostle travelled to Auckland, New Zealand where he was invited to attend a Valedictory event for the confirmands. On Saturday he took the opportunity to conduct a divine service for ministers and wives in the New Lynn church. On Sunday he conducted a combined service, during which he sealed a number of souls, and confirmed 12 youth. In addition, he assigned Priest Walter du Plooy as Assistant District Rector, and Priest Deon Abrahams as Assistant Rector.



Youth Convention in Ballarat, Victoria

The youth of Victoria & South Australia came together for the annual Youth Convention in Ballarat over the Labour Day long weekend in March. Youth travelled from as far as Albury (NSW) and Adelaide (SA) to participate in this special event, and enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with each other and engage in various activities.

Apostle Lodewick conducted the youth service on the Sunday morning. He used the text out of Deuteronomy 1, a portion of the 13th verse: *"Choose wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men from among your tribes."*

A bible reading out of 1 Kings 3:16-28 was read by one of our youth sisters. The message for this divine service was to "Act wisely." The Apostle emphasised that we need to listen and think before we respond or act in the various situations of life.

The convention concluded on Monday morning when everyone travelled back after a most enjoyable occasion.



Sunday School activity in Western Australia

To kickstart the new Sunday School year, the Western Australia district held a Sunday School service & fellowship activity, with children, parents, grandparents and teachers invited.

The text used was from Genesis 25:29-32, with the service focusing on the account of Esau giving up his birthright to his brother Jacob. The core message centred around the thought of what is truly valuable to us? Some questions posed to our children were: Why do we value certain things over others? Does what we value change over time?; and What can we learn from this account of Esau & Jacob? The sermon was accompanied by a visual display and interactive activity based on our International Sunday School syllabus.

After the service, a presentation was given to all the parents, grandparents and teachers covering the plan for the year. The children and guests also enjoyed some lip-smacking burgers, water activities, games and ice-creams.



Connecting during COVID-19



2020 has brought with it many unexpected challenges, not least of which are the restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During this time of social distancing, our members and ministers have found ways to remain connected to each other. Many have embraced the technology of online meeting platforms such as Zoom, others have kept in touch by email or text, and still others have stayed connected through congregational social media pages.

One of the highlights during this time was the presentation from the Sunday School children after the divine service on Mother's Day. Another initiative that has come about is the concept of a "virtual choir". This is a project that has been undertaken by a number of choirs globally. Members in the Western Pacific District worked on two musical items, ready in time for the Ascension Day divine service. A report which includes links to the finished product can be found under the "Latest News" heading on our new website (www.nacwesternpacific.org).

As well as divine services being conducted online, Sunday School and confirmation lessons have also continued to take place during this time. Congregations have also used technology to have virtual fellowship events, and there was even a virtual choir workshop that took place!

We look forward to the day that all members can once again gather in church, however in the meantime we can be thankful for the opportunities available to remain connected.



Perth, WA



Confirmation 2020

Dear confirmands,

God has always loved you. He has taken care of you all the days of your life. He wants you to be with Him in His kingdom, and He will do everything He can so that you may enter there.

Today you will solemnly declare your love for Him. You too have the desire to be with Him forever. And you have decided to take the only path that leads to Him, namely that of faith, obedience, and following.

For your confirmation, I dedicate to you the following beautiful promise of God:

"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days," says the Lord: "I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people." (Hebrews 8: 10)

Know that you will never be alone on the path that leads to God. There are many believers who are also on their way to liberty! From among them, God will always find someone to guide and support you.

From time to time, He will also call upon you to do good to your neighbour. We count on you to respond to His call, and thank you in advance for your help.

Wishing you great blessing on this festive day, and many joys in the Church, I extend to you, dear confirmands, my most heartfelt greetings.

Jean-Luc Schneider

Buranda, Qld



Hallam, Vic



Auckland, New Zealand



Beverly Hills, NSW



Leumeah, NSW

Newcastle, NSW



Seven Hills, NSW



Christchurch, NZ



Around the Congregations:

1. Mother's Day in Falefa (Samoa)
2. District Apostle Schulte with members after divine service in Adelaide (SA)
3. Brothers' meeting in Bolba, Jiwaka Province (PNG)
4. Fellowship after divine service in Kingston (Qld)
5. Confirmation class in Beverly Hills (NSW)
6. Seven Hills (NSW) Sunday School children celebrate a birthday
7. Youth & Sunday School children in Rainbow (PNG) enjoyed fellowship together
8. Sunday School service in Adelaide (SA)
9. Beverly Hills (NSW) congregation enjoyed a fellowship walk
10. Seniors morning tea in Beverly Hills (Qld)
11. Members in Adelaide (SA) held a fundraising dinner





Around the Congregations:

1. Confirmands in New Zealand enjoyed a fellowship activity
2. Geraldton (WA) congregation
3. Seniors gathered in Croydon (Vic) for fellowship together
4. Youth service in Mackay (Qld)
5. Children's service in Mackay (Qld)
6. Valedictory for confirmands in Victoria
7. NSW Sunday school beach outing
8. Members from Wollongong & Nowra (NSW)
9. Mt Hagen (PNG) members after service for departed
10. NSW youth enjoying time together



Around the Congregations:

1. Seven Hills (NSW) Sunday school children
2. Ordination of Dcn Ruan Jooste and assignment of Pr Shane Bruyns as District rector in Christchurch (NZ)
3. Orewa Sunday school children baked biscuits for residents of an aged care home
- 4-6. Apostle Lodewick & District Elder Witbooi continued the planning for the NACare Early Childhood project in Solomon Islands, which included meeting the mayor of Honiara
7. Youth service in Fairfield (NSW)
- 8-9. During a trip to Asia, Apostle Lodewick conducted a divine service for members in Hong Kong





Around the Congregations:

- 1-10. Ap Lodewick traveled to the Weather Coast in the Solomon Islands, where ordinations, confirmation, sealing & the dedication of a bush church took place
- 11-12. Members in Tama, Japan
- 13. Games night for youth in Seven Hills (NSW)
- 14. Sunday school fundraising picnic in South Australia



Celebrations

1. Adoption of Br Dan Winter in Newcastle (NSW)
2. Sis Jean Schmidt of Ascot Park (SA) celebrated her 75th birthday
3. Sis Erica Mettbach of Bundaberg (Qld) celebrated her 96th birthday
4. Pr (ir) Fred Glaser of Ascot Park (SA) celebrated his 80th birthday
5. Holy Sealing of Sis Antoinette Jackson of Ashmore (Qld)
6. Sis Rose Roll of Box Hill (Vic) celebrated her 90th birthday
7. Pr (ir) Norm Berney of Hackham West (SA) celebrated his 80th birthday
8. Holy Baptism of Hayden Peters of North Shore (NZ)
9. Holy Baptism of Hunter Burrows in Orewa (NZ)
10. Holy Sealing of Maddison van Etten in Beverly Hills (NSW)
11. Holy Sealing of William O'Connor in North Ipswich (Qld)





Celebrations

1. Pr (ir) Jorge Campagno of Springvale (Vic) celebrated his 75th birthday
2. Pr (ir) Robert Clark of Rockingham (WA) celebrated his 80th birthday
3. Holy Baptism & Sealing of Rachel & Jaqualyn Pouru in Rainbow (PNG)
4. District Ev (ir) Ivan Barendse of Gosford (NSW) celebrated his 75th birthday
5. Sis Hedwig Lublow of Canberra (ACT) celebrated her 90th birthday
6. Holy Baptism of Jo Saville in North Shore (NZ)
7. Holy Baptism of Kayson James in Hallam (Vic)
8. Ev (ir) Neville & Sis Shirley Thompson of Beverly Hills (NSW) received diamond wedding blessings

Celebrations

1. Sis Ingeborg Bujak of Hackham West (SA) celebrated her 90th birthday
2. Sis Erica Martens of Croydon (Vic) celebrated her 92nd birthday
3. Sis Relma Suhl of North Ipswich (Qld) celebrated her 80th birthday
4. District Elder (ir) Ian & Sis Barbara Gerke of Morayfield (Qld) received Golden wedding blessings
5. Br Allen & Sis Denise Schulte received Ruby wedding blessings in North Ipswich (Qld)
6. Holy Sealing of William Schmidt in Christchurch (NZ)





Celebrations

1. Br Dan Winter & Sis Tracey Krause received engagement blessings in Newcastle (NSW)
2. Br James & Sis Francis Joseph received Ruby wedding blessings in Beverly Hills (NSW)
3. Sis Dot Keiler of Riverleigh (Qld) celebrated her 80th birthday
4. Sis Sybil Schulte of Caloundra (Qld) celebrated her 80th birthday
5. Dcn Mark & Sis Veronica Schulte of North Ipswich (Qld) received Ruby wedding blessings
6. Ev (ir) Ulli & Sis Jenny Duenzl of Morayfield (Qld) received Ruby wedding blessings

For your Information

Chief Apostle Schneider's schedule:

Due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus pandemic, the Chief Apostle's schedule is not available at this time.

District Apostle Schulte's schedule:

Due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus pandemic, the District Apostle's schedule is not available at this time.

Upcoming Events:

Jul 2020	Aug 2020	Sept 2020
5: Service for Departed		21: International Day of Prayer for Peace

Ministerial Changes:

Name	Event	Ministry	Congregation
Pr Timothy Smith	Confirmation	Priest	Orewa, NZ
Pr Walter du Plooy	Assignment	Assistant District rector	Drury, NZ
Pr Deon Abrahams	Assignment	Assistant rector	New Lynn, NZ

In Memoriam:

Br Edmund Neumann of Box Hill (Vic)	†	22/2/20
Sis Molly Nagel of Wellington (NZ)	†	3/3/20
Br Zoran Sarafimovski of Leumeah (NSW)	†	3/3/20
Br Robert Welsh of Elizabeth (SA)	†	14/3/20
Br Wilhelm Westman (Bill) of Buranda (Qld)	†	21/3/20
Br Raymond Kenzler of Bundaberg (Qld)	†	28/4/20
Br Brian Hart of Hallam (Vic)	†	29/4/20
Pr Ian Packwood of Christchurch (NZ)	†	7/5/20
Br Gordon Barnwell of Hallam (Vic)	†	22/5/20
Sis Elke Dassow of Gladstone (Qld)	†	24/5/20
Sis Alicia Issel of Henderson (NZ)	†	25/5/20

Contact Details:

New Apostolic Church

Office address

1A / 3 Deakin Street
Brendale QLD 4500 AUSTRALIA

Phone: +617 3480 0400

Website: www.nacwesternpacific.org

Postal address

PO Box 5903
Brendale BC QLD 4500 AUSTRALIA

Email

Photos: carley.love@newapostolic.org.au

Admin: nacho@newapostolic.org.au