MEMORANDUM

Date: 8 June 2016

To: National Leadership Team

From: Stephen Rudolph

Subject: Directors’ Email 10.16

Dear fellow directors

Meeting of NLT + assistant directors: 24 June 2016
Please note that the venue for the meeting on 24 June will be the Lutheran Schools Association SA/NT/WA office at 137 Archer Street, North Adelaide.

LEA news
Please find attached the latest edition of LEA news. Could you please circulate this to principals in your region via your regional newsletter.

With best wishes

Stephen Rudolph
Executive Director
Lutheran Education Australia
Federal Leaders Debate
One aspect covered by both Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and opposition leader Bill Shorten in the first leaders debate was to talk about how they believe their key policies will support students and schools.

Mr Turnbull explained the Coalition's *jobs and growth strategy*, addressing schooling in his opening remarks in the context of the need for there to be a strong Australian economy in which to be trained for and then find a job.

Mr Shorten listed education as one of Labor's 'positive plans for a strong economy and a fair society'. Labor's plans for education if 'from childcare right through schools to TAFE and to universities, ensuring that Australians are equipped to compete for the jobs of the future!'

"We want to make sure, that every child in every school, gets every opportunity, because Labor would properly fund schools (government and non-government) according to their needs" Mr Shorten said, adding, "Labor will ensure that we make sure that Australians get high quality education. We will make sure that Australian children get the best quality schools. We will do this by making sure that we have well-funded positive plans."

Mr Turnbull said that the Coalition will increase education spending in coming years, although he acknowledged Labor has promised larger spending increases. He said great outcomes are the goals of the Coalition's schools policy and said, "I am as committed to every Australian having a good education…. so we are going to ensure that every child at the age of five, when they go to school, is assessed so that we can find out which kid is doing well, which one is behind, so that action can be taken immediately".

Lutheran Schools Funding
**Coalition:** While LEA has welcomed the Coalition's recent announcement of recurrent funding increases of 3.56% per student per year over the 2018-2020 period, the details surrounding this announcement and the impact for Lutheran system funding are still somewhat unclear. Any potential increase to accountability requirements, as suggested, is of some concern. The government’s plan is available at [http://docs.education.gov.au/node/40671](http://docs.education.gov.au/node/40671).

**Labor:** LEA welcomes Labor's positive support for school education as outlined in 'Your school. Our future'. Labor has indicated its support to all schools and that funding will reflect the needs of student and schools. Lutheran systems and schools are strong supporters of needs-based funding that allows all students to have their educational needs addressed and parents to be able to choose their school for their children with an additional $4.5 billion in funding expected in 2018 and 2019, subject to Labor being able to align all states and territories to the SRS model. LEA is pleased to be able to support this policy.

**Principals Australian Institute (PAI)**
PAI invite principals to attend the *Great Schools Have Great Leaders Forum* on **Tuesday 21 June 2016**
Federal Members from the Coalition, the ALP and other parties, responsible for Education portfolios are being finalised.
Venue Details: Crystal Room, the Stamford Plaza, 150 North Terrace, Adelaide SA
Time: 9.30am to 11.30am
RSVP to: Jill de Araugo, jill.dearaugo@pai.edu.au
This is a terrific opportunity to hear from the key election candidates about their vision for Australian education.

High Impact Professional Learning events [developed by Jim Knight]
Based on 20 years of continued research, Jim Knight’s High-Impact Professional Learning program is consistently improving daily instructional practice in classrooms around the globe. Upcoming two-day workshops where participants will focus on two high impact strategies that improve teaching and learning are being held in:
- Melbourne 20-21 June
- Brisbane 23-24 June
- Darwin 27-28 June
- Perth 30 June-1 July
Further information and registration at: https://resources.corwin.com/australia/events

LEA Director of Formation [Anne Dohnt]
Growing deep
At the recent Principal conference in Cairns, the principals were surveyed in relation to their needs and priorities with Growing deep. This data will assist with determining ongoing resourcing and regional school support. The Growing deep website will also have a space where we can share stories about the ways schools and early childhood services are unpacking and exploring Growing deep. Please email LEA lea@lutheran.edu.au with your story, image and reflections on ways your community has begun to explore an aspect of Growing deep so we can be inspired and support each other along the journey.

Keep the fire burning
Some resources to support the well-being agenda of the Principals conference
Pause and pray
An online Jesus labyrinth for prayer http://www.rejesus.co.uk/site/module/labyrinth/
A daily online prayer space for helping to pause, breathe and pray. http://www.sacredspace.ie/
Praying with scripture
Gratitude
"A Good Day" With Brother David Steindl-Rast
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ZI9puhwiyw

LEA Director of Research & Development [Kaye Mathwin-Cox]
Quality Schools
The Quality Schools surveys have now officially closed. While a low percentage of student responses in some schools led to a slight delay in closing the surveys, RADII suggests that schools and regions will have their reports very soon. We are hopeful that the data will be useful for schools and boards to inform strategic development and school improvement, and look forward to feedback from principals regarding the value of the Quality Schools process and subsequent reports.
Another drop in ATAR scores for teaching courses shows coalition must act on tougher entry standards

[30 May 2016]
Latest figures showing more students than ever were admitted to teaching degrees with ATAR scores of under 50 in 2016 shows the Coalition must act on minimum entry standards, the Australian Education Union said today. The percentage of students entering courses with ATAR scores who have an ATAR of under 50 has almost doubled since 2013, from 7.3% to 14.3%, with the Coalition failing to take any measures to address failing entry standards or the oversupply of graduates. AEU Federal President Correna Haythorpe said the Federal Government needed to impose minimum entry standards for teaching degrees to maintain the long-term quality of the teaching workforce. Read the full media release
Lutheran Archives Research Competition

Lutheran Education Australia endorses the following Lutheran Archives Research Competition and encourages school leaders and Christian Studies and History teachers to distribute the flyer widely to students up to year 10 level and to promote student involvement as much as possible. This is an opportunity for our Lutheran schools and colleges to support the work of the wider Lutheran church in a small but practical way. Principals, please pass this on to your Christian Studies and History teachers.

Lutheran Archives Research Competition

My congregation - past, present and future

For age groups: Junior (12 years and under) & Senior (13-16 years)

Research your church family and produce a written report or a multimedia presentation with the title:

My congregation - past, present and future

1966 - 2016: 50 years of change in my congregation

Ideas: Interview your pastor and some longstanding members who might know about your congregation during the last 50 years. Did your congregation combine with another after the ELCA and UELCA amalgamated? Did your congregation form after 1966? Were any church buildings (including the manse) sold at that time or re-purposed to bring the congregations together? Can you find photographs of the past and present buildings? If so, how do they compare? How has the membership changed? Has it grown or shrunk? Are you in a rural area where employment on farms has changed and the population has declined? Are you in an urban area where large numbers of migrants have settled in the area and joined the congregation? Has your local community changed in other ways? Has your church changed its programs and groups, eg youth group, women’s guild etc? You could investigate congregational statistics showing baptisms, confirmations, member figures etc. If you like, create a model of your church plant, then and now, as an entry in the multimedia section. Don’t forget to consider plans and goals for the future.

Closing date for entries: 25 September 2016

Entries should be submitted in digital or hard copy form to Lutheran Archives (contact details below).

- Word limit: Junior – 500 words; Senior – 1000 words
- Multimedia: Junior and Senior – six minutes in length
- Prizes: Cash prizes of $100 and $50 for the best and second-best entries in the senior age group and $80 and $60 for the junior section. (Prizes sponsored by Wohlers Pty Ltd)

Details:

- Written entries may include photographs. Multimedia entries include PowerPoints, films and websites.
- Credit will be given for using interviews as well as written and photographic sources.
- Credit will be given for making personal or email contact with Lutheran Archives (22 Fourth Street, Bowden SA 5007 Phone 08 8340 4009 Email: lutheran.archives@lca.org.au)
- Credit will be given for including a reference list and resource list.
- Other criteria for judging: creativity, care and accuracy.
- The entries will be judged by the Director of Lutheran Archives and a panel of volunteers at Lutheran Archives.
- To enter, email Mr Ev Leslie for an entry form and further competition information at evleslie@lca.org.au

During this synodal term, 2015-2016, the LCANZ recognizes two significant milestones. In 2016 we celebrate our 50th birthday, and in 2017 we commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. 50.500 faith.freedom.future invites us to mark these special anniversaries with thanks to God for his past blessings and with the sure hope and confidence that he is building the LCANZ for the future.