

# 2020 VISION

A CHARTER  
FOR  
LUTHERAN  
EDUCATION



# A 2020 Lutheran School will be Learning Centred

1. *Creating an environment where students really **love** to explore, discover, analyse and understand their world as part of an exciting life long journey*

*“Teaching kids to think, and teaching them to learn, and developing those skills more than content...we are looking at types of learners, the intelligence of learners and preferred learning styles...developing skills that will take them into the future” (A Lutheran Principal)*

# Selected learning modes

*The Filing Cabinet Approach* – storing knowledge to be reproduced later

*The Puzzle Approach* – making sense of things and relating pieces to each other

*The Tool Kit Approach*  
- acquiring facts and skills to be applied as situation arises

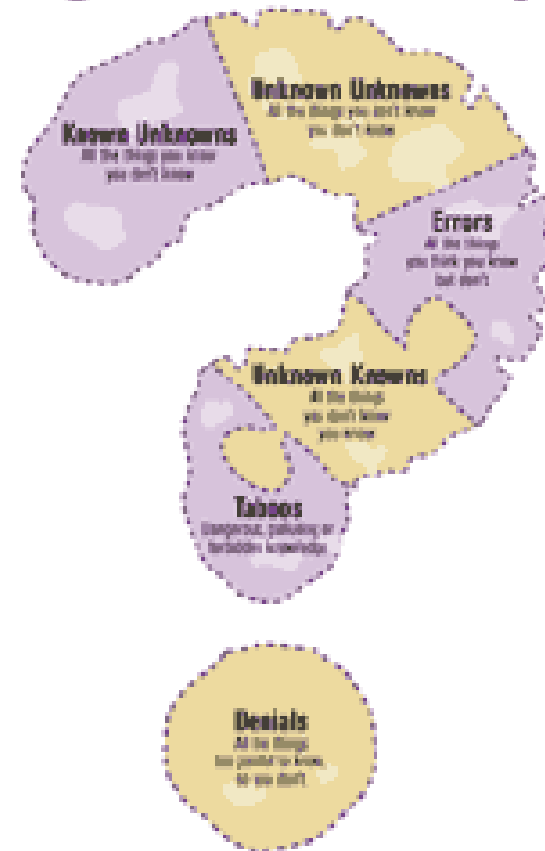
*The Space Trip Approach* – a journey into the unknown to discover wisdom and create new worlds

# The Ignorance Paradigm

- Known Unknowns
- Unknown Unknowns
- Errors
- Unknown Knowns
- Taboos
- Denials

*Seeking to identify what we don't know*

## Ignorance Map



# How do Lutherans respond to an educational challenge?

In conservative ways:

Go to tradition

Go to the book

Go to the experts

Especially when:

Grades are required

Content dominates

The system rules

“The task is to create exciting learning contexts where the imagination, the mind, the emotions and the spirit are challenged to discover, risk, transform, create and explore the unknown.”

Multiple intelligences!

# The Doogue Chart

- Students face a future:
  - with declining birth-rates
  - the post 7/11 shock factor
  - the aftermath of a 20 year bull run
- Learning will involve:
  - facing and confronting future fears and limits
  - exploring the mysteries of eros and thanatos
  - seizing the day with a clearer sense of the importance of values

# The Ellyard Chart

- ‘Follow your passion not your pension”
- Charting the tide of planetary opinion
- Making things happen – path-makers!
- Not problem-centred (mind) but mission driven (heart)
- No Lutheran cowboys
- Learning culture
  - learner-driven
  - just-in-time
  - transformative
  - contextual
  - learning to learn

# A Biblical Chart (Job 28)

## The Search for Wisdom



- God searches
- Everything under heaven
- Discovers wisdom
- In codes of creation
- And God learns
  
- “follow God, search the unknown to find the wisdom to face the future and make your school part of the search”



# The 'Learning' Challenge

It is time for Lutheran educators to:

- Take the lead & trust
- Take risks & model
- Love learning with their students
- Re-discover discovery



# ***Creatio continua and the learning principle***

- the mystery that God keeps on creating at the core of the cosmos and in the mind of the child



# **A 2020 Lutheran School will be Spirit Sensitive**

- 2. Discerning the personal spirituality of students and listening to their inner search for meaning as the work of the Spirit.*

*“The spirit needs a new language and a new imagining to make it part of the post-modern intellectual landscape.” (David Tacey)*

# The Engebretsen Chart

- Charting the future of our schools will require a new sensitivity to spirituality which is itself a sea of diversity including:
  - **Experience** of awe, mystery, the sacred
  - **Connectedness** with self, friends, nature
  - **Illumination** of lived experience as having meaning and value
  - **Expression** of experiences in new ways

# Modern Spirituality

- Church – irrelevant
- Pastors – answers
- Worship – obsolete

“Church is no longer the haven for kids to explore meaning, mystery, faith, belonging, the other, the spiritual – is the school?”

- Can the school take the lead and
  - listen to searching
  - avoid judgement
  - explore inner worlds
  - affirm new paths
  - sense the Spirit
  - find the language

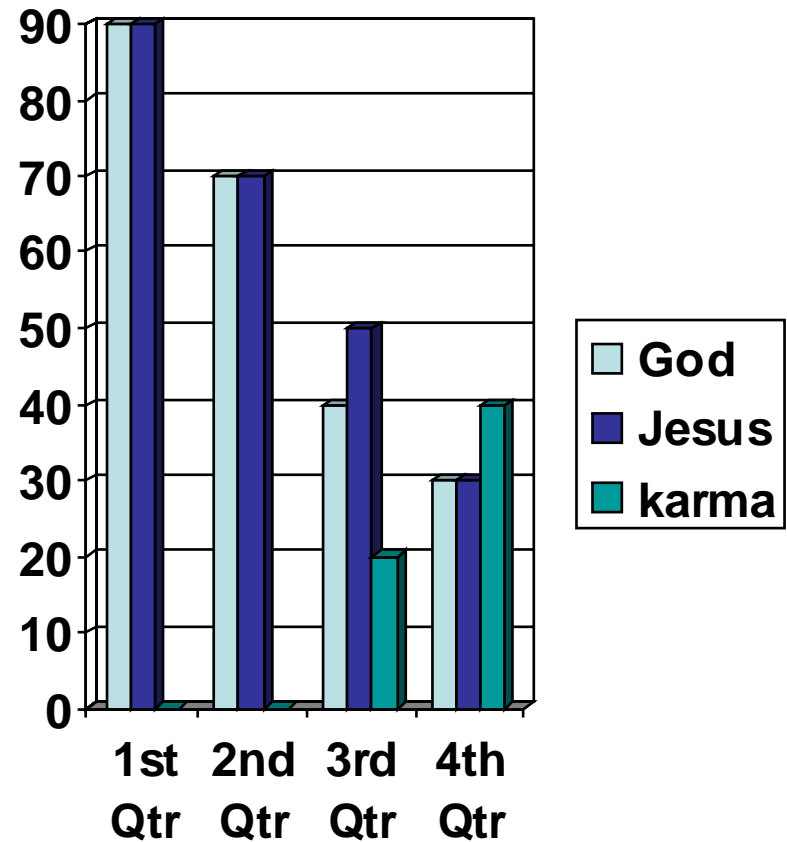
# Immanuel Survey

- 65% never read Bible
- 35% believe in God
- 10% find church OK
- 70% find meaning in
  - friends
  - own ideas
  - personal experience
- 40% believe in karma
- Can we trace when, from early primary to late secondary, God is marginalised?

# Belief in God/Jesus/Karma

In the 4 quarters of  
Lutheran Education:

- In early Primary School
- In late Primary School
- In Middle School
- In High School
- In later years



# Hidden Spiritualities

- Susan's Song
  - 'Deep within I cry – Who am I?'
- David's Mystery
  - 'I sense an energy deeper than death'
- Helen's Voices
  - 'I feel a presence in the bush, the night'





# The Spirituality Challenge

- Listen to doubts, hopes
- Explore inner worlds
- Affirm alternative paths
- Value experiences
- Encourage connecting

“The spirituality challenge means more than modifying our current courses, content, worship or style – it means starting where the students are and wondering with them.”

# ***Finitum capax infinitum and the spirituality principle***

- the mystery that the finite embraces the infinite, the material the spiritual and the student heart the searching Spirit



# **A 2020 Lutheran School will be Faith Informed**

3. Integrating essential Lutheran expressions of the Christian faith into the core curriculum and life of the school

“How is it possible to give authentic expression to the Lutheran tradition within the context of such diversity without indoctrinating or evangelising?” (Neal Nuske)

# The Lutheran Mission

Are staff to:  
preserve tradition?  
evangelise/indoctrinate?  
witness amid diversity?  
highlight 'Christian'?  
explore mystery?  
do theology?



# Doing Theology Every Day



- On high
- From the pulpit
- In the classroom
- By design or default

“We do theology when we, in our hearts & minds explore the presence of God in our lives, when we explore the mystery of the unknown with the known from the past.”

# 10 Lutheran Distinctives

## - the Education Nexus

1. God comes free –  
*sola gratia/sola fide*
2. A God who suffers –  
*deus crucifixus*
3. The way of the cross  
*theologia crucis*
4. Creation happens –  
*creatio continua*
5. God uses both hands –  
The Two Kingdoms
6. A Christian is 2 persons  
*simul justus et peccator*
7. Gospel supersedes law –  
*lex et evangelium*
8. Using the Christ key –  
*Was Christum treibet*
9. In, with and under  
*finitum capax infiniti*
10. The Church is under  
Construction – *ecclesia  
semper reformanda*

# *finitum capax infiniti*

## The finite is bearer of the infinite

- A science class
- Analysing one 'grain of sand'
- Infinite unknowns
- Infinite connections
- 'in, with and under'
- The presence within
- The infinite impulse
- The 'in, with and under' mystery
- The Spirit also in, with and under the human heart/mind

# The 'Lutheran' Challenge

## Lutheran Doctrines:

- a piece of history
- learned but left
- lost in language
- chaplain's task

## Lutheran Mysteries:

- learned in groups
- discerned in classes
- linked with spirituality
- in dialogue with faiths



# *Sola gratia and the faith principle*

- the mystery that God comes free, Christ comes free and faith is free for staff who teach the faith in a society that operates otherwise



# **A 2020 Lutheran School will have a Conscience**

4. Active in the school community and  
alive to the social needs and  
injustices in the world.

“As far as God is concerned, the goal for schooling is the same as for all aspects of creation, that is, helping to attain a society that is an orderly and good place to live, with citizens who serve one another justly, cooperatively and wisely”. (Mervyn Wegner)

# What does it mean for schools to belong to the Kingdom of the left?

- Obey state laws
- Promote values of equality, inclusion, justice and peace
- Counter injustices
- Question of balance
- “the kingdom of the left is not one of compliance but conscience”



# The Noko Chart

- Schools can take a lead to build a good society & a human family:
  - encountering and learning from diversity
  - charting an inclusive course and avoiding past exclusive ways
  - confronting racism, casteism, HIV/Aids
  - moving from national to human security
- “The exclusion of anyone on the basis of gender, race, colour, nationality, class, language or religion offends the image of God in that person.”

# A Conscience about Creation

What is eco-justice?

- We are Earth!
- Earth is sacred!
- Earth is abused!
- Earth needs healing!



*An environmental audit!*

# Creating a Conscience

- *The Cocoon Model*
  - Be informed via curriculum but leave actions to families (individual consciences)
- *The Community Model*
  - Work together to develop school values and a stand with which school identifies (communal conscience)
- *The Prophetic Model*
  - Taking a public stand to identify justice and expose injustice in society (public conscience)
- *The *theologia crucis* Model*
  - follow the way of Christ who declared he was chosen (Luke 4):
    - “to bring good news to the poor”
    - “to proclaim release to captives”
    - “to let the oppressed go free”

# The Conscience Challenge

- Take the lead as schools
  - Take a stand against injustice
  - Identify with victims
  - Be identified as a school with a conscience
- ‘In the light of the limitation of these holy places, I have hope in schools. They have the potential to provide a context in which we can search for the common identity that binds us together.’ Noko

# *Theologia crucis and the conscience principle*

- the mystery that the  
way of the cross  
creates a capacity to  
identify with those  
who suffer injustice





# **A 2020 Lutheran School will have a heart**

5. Caring for the inner needs of students and staff as they struggle with social, psychological and emotional challenges.

“You may have heard of the story of the Rabbi whose students wanted him to get rid of the darkness in their cellar. First, he told them to shout at the darkness, then to sweep it away and finally to simply light a candle.”  
(Ruth Butler)

# Dimensions of the Dark

- Forms of depression
- Loneliness, despair
- Emotional pain
- Self-harm - masking
- Post-traumatic stress
- Broken relationships
- Anti-depressants
- Causes in the home
- Causes in society
- Causes in school
- Teacher awareness
- Peer awareness
- Pastoral awareness

# Discerning the dark



Wake me up inside  
wake me up inside  
call my name and save  
me from the dark.

Bid my blood to run  
before I come undone,  
save me from the  
nothing I've become.  
Bring me back to life.

*Evanesance*

# Save me from the Dark

- More than chaplains and counsellors
- Non-judgemental
- Non-exclusion of those 'in darkness'
- Community with heart
- Support systems
- Theology of the Cross
  - Christ in the dark
  - a suffering God
  - seeing Christ
  - walking the valley
  - building resilience

# The Hart Chart

- Staff too:
  - experience stress, anxiety and dark days
  - but grow in morale and confidence as a team
- if the leadership has heart (empathy), engagement and clarity of purpose
  - so that **learning** happens both emotionally and professionally

# The Darkness Challenge

“In a school community of peer pressure to shine, academic pressure to succeed, inner pressure to stay cool, and parental pressure to make proud, the ‘darkness syndrome’ will continue as will a growing demand on schools to have staff with the capacity to find light in the darkness.”

At another level, the same challenge relates to staff.



# ***Deus crucifixus and the heart principle***

- the mystery that the God who became flesh and suffered on the cross continues to suffer with those who struggle with despair



# **A 2020 Lutheran School will be Conscious of its Dual Heritage**

6. Celebrating our local Australian roots and our inclusive international Lutheran connections with passion and pride.

“From the time of the Reformation, Lutheran churches have been connected with education and schooling. Luther himself had emphasised the necessity of education for both boys and girls for the benefit of the church and the state” (Malcolm Bartsch)

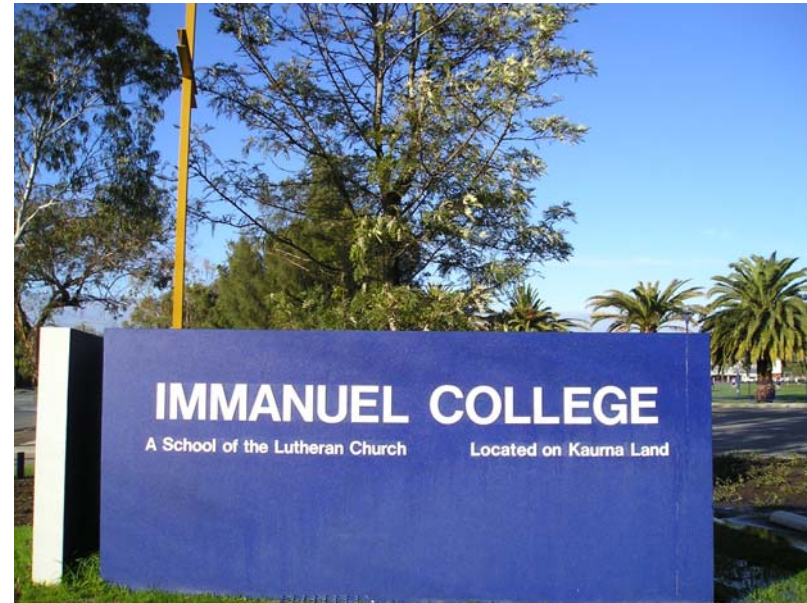


# What was God doing in Australia before the Europeans came?

- Creating koalas and echidnas?
- Giving Satan a chance?
- Waiting for Captain Cook to arrive?
- Waiting 60 thousand years for the missionaries?
- Creating cultures?
- “From one ancestor God made all nations to inhabit the whole Earth...so that they would search for God...and find God...Acts 17.26-27

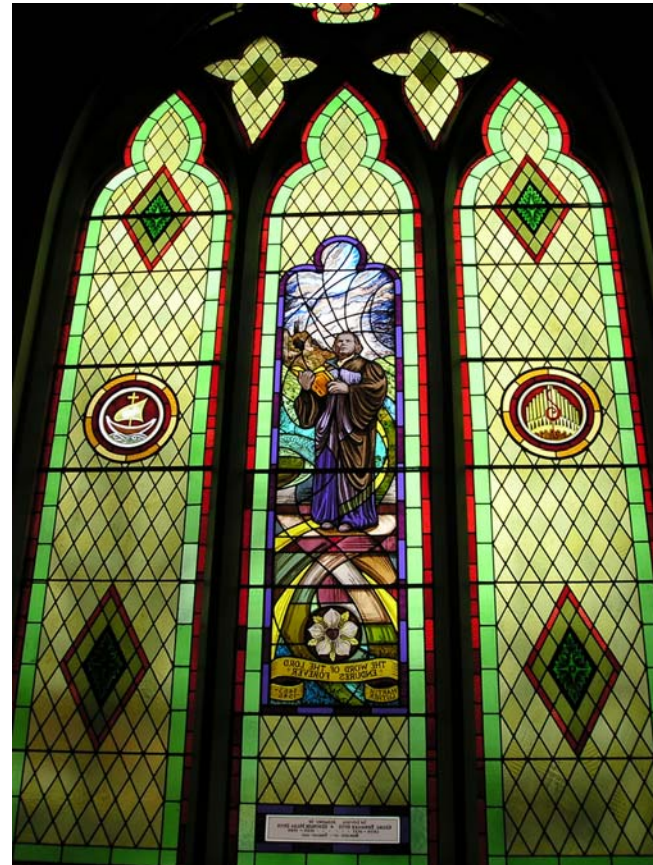
# Affirming our Heritage

- God's role
- Our shame
- The local wisdom
- The custodian's role
- The spiritual heritage
- More than sorry
- Noel Pearson



# The Lutheran Connection

- 70 million Lutherans
- International Day
- LWF - Sudan
- Sister schools
- Luther & Reformation
- Kavel & Fritsche
- St Stephens



# The LWF Chart

- “Australia, the educator of the world, can also become a navigator towards the unity of the human family through this mutual pedagogical experience of diversity.”
- “Lutheran traditions and faith principles, in particular our traditional Lutheran emphasis on love for one’s neighbour, and new understandings of the implications of communion, can provide important foundations for a response to this challenge.” Noko

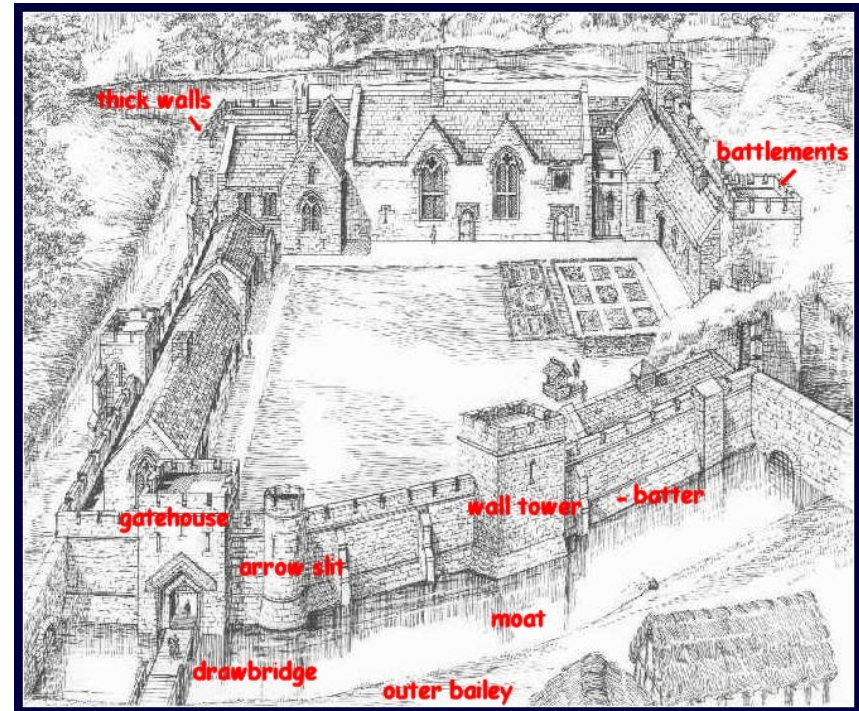
# The Challenge for Lutherans as Learners

- From exclusive to inclusive
- From isolation to innovation
- From pioneers to explorers
- From transmitters to transformers



# *Was Christum treibet and the heritage principle*

- the mystery that reading our past in terms of where it led us to Christ can inform how we face the future with Christ



# 2020 VISION

## A Charter for Lutheran Education

*A 2020 Lutheran School will be:*

- 1. Learning centred**  
creating an environment where students really love to explore, discover and analyse their world as part of an exciting life-long journey
- 2. Spirit sensitive**  
discerning the personal spirituality of students and listening to their inner search for meaning as the work of the Spirit
- 3. Faith informed**  
integrating essential Lutheran expressions of the faith into the core curriculum and life of the school
- 4. With a conscience**  
active in the school community and alive to social needs and injustices in our world
- 5. With a heart**  
caring for the inner needs of students and staff in their struggles with social, psychological and emotional challenges
- 6. And a dual heritage**  
celebrating our local Australian roots and our inclusive international Lutheran connections with passion and pride

# Six Lutheran Essentials to be Explored in the 2020 Charter of Education

## ***Creatio continua*** and the learning principle

- the mystery that God keeps creating at the core of the cosmos and in the mind of the child

## ***Finitum capax infinitum*** and the spirituality principle

- the mystery that the finite embraces the infinite, the material the spiritual and the student heart the searching Spirit

## ***Sola gratia*** and the faith principle

- the mystery that God comes free, Christ comes free and faith is free for staff who teach the faith in a society that operates otherwise

## ***Theologia crucis*** and the conscience principle

- the mystery that the way of the cross creates a capacity to identify with those who suffer injustice

## ***Deus crucifixus*** and the heart principle

- the mystery that the God who became flesh and suffered on the cross continues to suffer with those who struggle with despair

## ***Was Christum treibet*** and the heritage principle

- the mystery of reading our past in terms of where it led us to Christ can inform how we face the future with Christ



Go in Peace and Explore

Shalom!

Salaam!

Eirene!

Peace!