

Advice to writers

Pathways is

- Meaningful and real
- Orientation and overview
- Start or part of a formation journey
- Is vocation
- Invited into journey
- Dialogue
- Resource for delivery but not to replace face to face
- Brings all staff together
- Unifying conversation
- What we make it
- Flexible

Pathways is:

- Pathway to a place you haven't been yet – not the beginning and the end
- Resource for the leaders to use to develop an understanding of Lutheran schools
- Resource repository

Pathways is:

- The beginning of a journey
- Relevant, real, stimulating, significant, relational, responsive
- Ever changing and evolving

Pathways is:

- Community building
- Collegiality building
- honest opening
- debunking stereotypes
- an opportunity to lean into the beauty of understanding the world through the eyes of God

Pathways is:

- A stepping stone of a journey
- Ongoing
- Dialogue
- Inclusive – of a range of stories and experiences
- A seed to grow

Pathways is not:

- Indoctrination
- Hoop to jump through
- Not just theology
- A rod for our back

- Speak through passive/spirit
- Interactive
- Time for deep reflection – agile learning/visible thinking, collaborate
- Who is God? What does God have to do with me? Transcendent or immanent? Victorian or dying/rising etc? God in Christ, incarnate, suffering with us etc.
- Help participants to recognise where key teachings manifest themselves in the day to day life of teaching in schools eg law and gospel in relationships/restorative practices.
- Vocation/vocation/vocation (Matthew)

Pathways is not:

- A one-off
- A beginning and an end

- A check-list of compliance
- A Christian conversion product

Pathways is not:

- An imposition
- For making a legitimately doctrinal Lutheran out of those who attend
- A feeble excuse for why we call ourselves a Christian school

Pathways is not:

- Intense and heavy
- The total summary of our faith
- Studying to be a pastor
- The end of the journey
- Onerous

Pathways is not:

- A dead end road
- Confirmation lessons
- The same in each school
- Time consuming
- Compliance

Important to know

1. Worship
2. Prayer
3. Devotion
4. Grace
5. Forgiveness
6. Reconciliation
7. Understanding/accessing the word
8. Symbols/rituals/language
9. Blessing

Enduring understandings:

- What is spirituality?
- Lutheran understanding of worship
- Relationships – sin and grace, theology cross, salvation
- Understanding the scripture (how to read and interpret the scriptures) 'hermeneutic'
- Law and gospel

Important to know:

- The Lutheran story – Luther, reformation
- The sacraments as in the Lutheran Church
- Service Learning

Worth being familiar with:

- God, father, son and holy spirit – 'The Shack'

What are important aspects of life in a Lutheran school that new staff need opportunities to explore and learn?

- Saying grace
- Leading in worship (classroom devotions, whole school worship/chapel), preparing devotions
- Leading worship from a Lutheran perspective – focus on the word of God
- Provision of resources – electronically and physical
- Videos of Lutheran cultural norms eg Indigenous, academic (ie Lutheran developed in a university, table talk, technology, family, music, grace, devotions)
- A man named Martin clips
- Nooma clips
- Horrible history of the reformation and the church from Christ to reformation timing
- Class devotions examples
- What does a Lutheran teacher look like and do in a normal class?
- Why do we do this? Page eg Bible readings, prayer, invocation, blessing, service etc
- LDP participants to lead a module within Pathways as part of their course

Delivery

- Opportunities to be critical
- Smaller time frame focussed staff devotions
- Retreat days
- Visuals – carefully chosen
- Anything that encourages interaction and engagement (games, real life)
- 21st century pedagogy – inquiry, collaboration
- Reflective journals
- Clarifying that staff attend devotions/study part of EBA time

Spiritual (At)

- Determine the outcomes for the course and then allow flexibility for the school to develop in a way that suits their context (community, region, time).

- To be used as an ongoing formation document – focus: community/culture/ethos development
- Address into National Standards Teachers/Growing Deep

Important aspects of life in a Lutheran school

- Worship and devotional life
- Christianity in a nutshell
- Prayer
- Lutheran history – church/school
- Respectful relationships

Induction:

- Includes all staff
- Needs some 'system' focus (online?) but then locally based

If this is something that we want to do with whole staff – what resources could be written which are differentiated and provide choice...but, something that can be picked up and run with as the people delivering it are not always theologians.

Could some of the material be online – presented by someone (video) with places to stop for the group discussion to happen, with video embedded etc?

The jump from concept/language in Pathways Spiritual to Theological is BIG

Maintain the 'personal experiences' in spiritual. The capacity to build relationships with others during Pathways Spiritual is great.

Is there places in the program where people could do their own independent learning and come back to the group to share.

Create a 'module' for new staff to support induction process which explains the basics of working in a Lutheran school.

Resources – video/resources on...

- How to play
- What is a devotion
- Good devotion resources
- Importance of service
- A typical week in a Lutheran school
- What does a Lutheran school do to value every person – grace
- Staff devotions
- Growing deep
- Behaviour management in a Christian context
- Values/vision for learners
- Link to 175 LSA video – connection between schools
- The vibe – mission/ministry
- Unique child of God
- History/vibe of the church
- Ongoing formation – growth opportunities through entire career in Lutheran schools

Enduring:

- Understanding of God; and human identity ('ideal', 'real self' Nadia B-W)
- Grace
- Gospel
- Life is not going to be without struggle, suffering etc therefore not ethics of retribution
- Being Christian is counter-cultural – service learning; social justice because Jesus was a rebel, was revolutionary (so was Luther!)

- Kingdom of God values – ‘empire’ values
- The importance of Christian Studies in school life

Know and do – important

- Owning and grounding ie we give and practice Christian gospel values, witness our faith, but not to convert, in the first instance
- Core Lutheran theological terminology – in order to practice (what does it look like, sound like etc)
- Biblical literacy – and how do I grow my spirituality? How do I read the Bible for me?
- Faith includes questions and doubts – for everyone
- Prayers/devotions – leading and preparing (and understanding) – and the fact that there is always time set aside for this in the timetable, at meetings
- Provide mentors/buddies
- Symbolism – Christian church as a whole; Luther Rose in particular
- Rituals – processions, candles, commissioning services
- Religious language

Worthwhile

- Reformation – spirituality and historically
- History of Lutheran schools in Australia (particularly given school) with respect to mission and ministry

Delivery

- Project-based
- Utopia – a way of life (preach gospel, speak if you must)
- Experiential
- Service learning projects as main means of delivery – project based, experiential, then debrief/personal reflection with theological premises, biblical foundations etc