

**MODEL UNIT  
BAND C  
LEVEL 3**

# THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

**LIFE CONCEPT: GOD GATHERS PEOPLE INTO THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

YEAR: ..... SUGGESTED DURATION: 5 weeks (135 minutes per week)

DATE OF USE: ..... FAITH STATEMENTS: ① ② ③

## UNIT-SPECIFIC GOALS (highlighted)

### 1. THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IS THE COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS CREATED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

- 1a** investigate the Bible's descriptions of the Christian church
- 1b** explore similarities and differences in local Christian denominations

**1c** explore how God's word and the sacraments are central to the life of Christian congregations

### 2. GOD HAS GATHERED HIS PEOPLE TOGETHER THROUGHOUT HISTORY

- 2a** investigate important events and people in the development and history of Christian denominations

**2b** investigate the history of the Lutheran church in Australia

- 2c** explore what has been constant and what has changed in the Christian church

### 3. LUTHERANS IN AUSTRALIA WORK TOGETHER IN MINISTRY AND MISSION

**3a** investigate ways the Lutheran Church of Australia carries out its mission and ministry in the world

**3b** investigate the work of an organisation of the Lutheran Church of Australia in the world

## STUDENT ASSESSMENT

### ASSESSABLE STUDENT OUTCOMES

Record the Lutheran understanding of the 'word' and 'sacraments' and the importance of these in the life of the church. (1c)

List facts relating to the history of the Lutheran church in Australia. (2b)

Describe the activities of Lutheran organisations working in the world. (3a)

Record information about the work of Lutheran World Service. (3b)

### ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES

⇒ work sample (brochure)

⇒ work sample (brochure)

⇒ work sample (brochure)

⇒ work sample (brochure)

## UNIT SUMMARY

Students investigate the history and activities of the Lutheran Church of Australia. Students investigate the way in which Lutheran World Service helps to carry out the mission of the church in the world.

## UNIT NOTES

In preparation for this unit write or fax the LCA's Board for Church Cooperation in World Mission and Lutheran World Service to obtain information about their programs.

Gather a range of brochures, including brochures about agencies of the Lutheran Church of Australia. Students will use these as models to create their own brochure.

## INTRODUCTION

### 1. INTRODUCING THE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Use TRS C3/1 to provide students with information about the numbers of people belonging to Christian denominations in Australia. Use discussion questions on TRS C3/1. Discuss whether all the people who say they are Christian really understand what this means. Discuss as a class:

*What makes a church Christian?*

Although the majority of people in Australia list their religion as Christian, many Christian congregations face declining attendance.

Define Christian church as the community of believers in Jesus and not as a building or organisation.

Highlight the figures for the Lutheran church as one of the Christian denominations. Compare the census figures with the National Church Life Survey figures. Discuss:

- Do you think the people who said they are Lutheran really know what this means? Why or why not?
- What could be done to raise these people's awareness of what it means to be Lutheran?

Suggest that the Lutheran church would like young and fresh ideas to assist them in an advertising campaign. The students will produce a brochure about what it means to be Lutheran. To prepare for this they will investigate the beliefs and practices of the Lutheran church.

Students examine a range of sample brochures to become familiar with the kind of information that is presented.

Students discuss in groups what they will need to find out about the Lutheran church in order to prepare for the brochure, eg Who started the Lutheran church? How did Lutherans come to Australia? What do Lutherans believe and do?

## DEVELOPMENT

### 2. MARTIN LUTHER'S CHURCH

Introduce Martin Luther as the founder of the Lutheran church. Gather as many resources about Luther as possible, eg encyclopedias (including *Encarta*), *Eternal Word* (Year 7 *Called to Witness*, Session 39, student book, LIFE Band B TRS B3/3a,3b).

Distribute one text to each group and ask them to find five important facts about Martin Luther that could be included in the brochure.

Explain that in Luther's time the Bible was not so readily available to all people as it is today. Only a few priests had the opportunity to read and study the Bible. When Luther became a professor of biblical studies, he began to study the Bible thoroughly. He was surprised at what he found. Like many other church members of that time, he had been taught to fear God as an angry judge. He had believed that people have to do good works to pay for their sins. The Bible said something else.

Read the following Bible passages and record the message of each verse:

John 3:16	John 8:31,32
Romans 3:21–28	Romans 5:1–5,8
Galatians 2:1	Galatians 3:26
Ephesians 1:5–9	Ephesians 2:4–9

Discuss:

- What is the Bible's message about how people are saved?
- If you had been brought up to believe that you had to pay for your sins, how would you have reacted after reading these verses?

Tell students that Luther was angry that the good news of the Bible was being hidden from Christians. Luther protested to church leaders and was eventually excommunicated (put out of the church). The Lutheran church takes its name from Martin Luther.

Students record a key verse from those listed above to include in their brochure.

Read the sections '*Church*' means people and *The community called by the Holy Spirit* and *The community and forgiveness of sins*, from *Luther's Large Catechism* explanation of the third part of the Apostles' Creed. Students list the key features of Luther's understanding of 'church'. See TRS C3/2. Discuss:

- What is Luther's understanding of church?
- How important are the 'word' and 'sacraments' to Luther?
- Why do you think they are so important to Luther?

- What do you think would be features of a church based on Luther's teaching?

Read *Luther's Small Catechism* explanation of the third part of the creed and of baptism and holy communion. List Lutheran beliefs about God's word, baptism and holy communion.

### 3. LUTHERANS IN AUSTRALIA

Students explore Lutheran settlement in Australia or in their particular geographical location. Sources include: family history books, *The Story of Lutherans in Australia* and old LCA yearbooks. The pastor or an older church member may provide information about Lutheran settlement in the local area.

From these resources record information about

- reasons Lutherans settled in Australia
- beliefs and practices Lutherans brought to Australia.

Students select information for their brochures.

### 4. AUSTRALIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Arrange a visit to the local Lutheran church building and a talk with the pastor about the congregation's beliefs and activities. Ask for copies of the mission statement, Sunday bulletin, membership brochures, etc.

Look at a map of Lutheran congregations in Australia. See TRS C3/3. Students locate their supporting/closest congregation on the map. Discuss the map and the placement of the congregations, eg Why are there many congregations in some areas? *The Lutherans in Australia* is also an excellent resource.

Students investigate the services or agencies of the Lutheran Church of Australia by doing one of the following activities:

- Use the phone book of the major city in your district to find the services provided by the Lutheran church. Discuss the services provided and ask students to record those to be included in their brochure.
- Explore the LCA home page <http://lca.org.au>. Record information about the work of the Lutheran church, using the home page.
- From the yearbook of the LCA find information about how the church operates, eg list four different organisations; list the names and functions of the major committees (1998 yearbook, p 30–33).
- View *Hand in Hand* the video about the work of the Lutheran Church of Australia. Students list the services or organisations of the Lutheran Church of Australia.

Discuss what to include in the brochure. Students record information for their brochure.

### 5. LCA IN THE WORLD

Tell students that the Australian Lutheran church works outside of Australia.

Groups of students look at copies of the magazine *Mission Panorama*, pages from the mission calendar and sections from *The Lutheran*, such as *World View*. They list activities of the LCA beyond Australia.

Introduce Lutheran World Service (LWS) as an organisation that works for the Lutheran church in the world. Students locate the LWS home page, <http://www.lca.org.au/alws>.

Students use the home page to gain information about the mission and ministry of the Lutheran church in the world.

Alternatively, groups of students examine pages from an LWS project support packet and list key facts about what the Lutheran church is doing in the world. Mark on a world map the countries where Lutheran World Service works. Students record information for their brochure.

Students list ways they could support the work of the Lutheran World Service regularly, eg having a cake day to raise money for the class Lutheran World Service membership fee.

### 6. LUTHERANS AROUND THE WORLD

Use the Internet to explore listings under 'Lutheran'. Examine the home pages of Lutheran congregations (in other countries) to consider:

- What is common in Lutheran congregations around the world?
- What differences are there in Lutheran congregations around the world?

Use encyclopedias to gather statistics about the number of Lutherans in the world.

Students choose an appropriate Bible reading to include in their brochure about the Lutheran church. Consider:

Mark 10:43–45	John 13:14,15
John 8:31,32	John 13:34,35.

## RESPONSE

### 7. DESIGN A BROCHURE

Examine sample brochures, focusing on their design and layout. Students design their own brochures to inform people about the Lutheran church.

## YOU WILL NEED

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> non-fiction resources about: Martin Luther, Lutherans in Australia; family histories about Lutheran settlement in Australia</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Copies of <i>Mission Panorama</i> and the missionary prayer calendar distributed by the Board for Church Cooperation in World Mission, LCA<br/>197 Archer Street<br/>North Adelaide SA 5006<br/>Phone: 08 8267 7300<br/>Fax: 08 8267 7330<br/>e-mail: bccwm@lca.org.au</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Information about the work of Lutheran World Service<br/>PO Box 488<br/>Albury NSW 2640<br/>Phone: 060 21 5329<br/>Fax: 060 21 4504<br/>e-mail: alws@albury.net.au</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> a range of advertising brochures to use as models for the students' own brochures. <i>Introducing the Lutheran Church</i> (available from The Open Book for 95c) is excellent. Also consider your school prospectus.</li></ul> |
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## INTEGRATING INTO OTHER CURRICULUM AREAS

**ENGLISH:** *Literature:* Explain and justify own opinions about texts. Find and cite elements of a text to support a point of view. Directed reading, reading alone. Editing skills. *Everyday Texts:* Consider needs of audience when speaking. Develop discussion and problem-solving skills. Use strategies for gathering, recording and reporting data. Identify features of non-fiction texts, construct own media texts, ads appealing to a particular audience, advertising techniques for persuasive writing, reading and thinking activities, discussion of questions posed by teachers, Write widely, develop discussion and problem-solving skills.

**SOCIETY AND ENVIRONMENT:** *Investigation, Communication, Participation:* Formulate questions, reflect on knowledge and understanding. Identify information sources. Gather, organise and interpret information using diagrams. Identify similar data. Draw conclusions. Identify, analyse and clarify values. Consider audience in presentation. Cooperation skills. *Culture:* Investigate the role, importance of religions, beliefs and values.

**TECHNOLOGY:** *Design, Make and Appraise:* Design, make and appraise an advertising brochure. Investigate issues and needs. Create, organise and present in a variety of ways. Select and use appropriate resources, techniques and equipment.

from the National Statements and Profiles

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## UNIT EVALUATION

Which activities worked well in this unit?

Which resources were useful in the implementation of this unit?

How did I respond to the range of students' knowledge about the Lutheran church?

How did I make explicit the reason for the investigation into the mission and ministry of the Lutheran church?

What would I do differently if I was teaching this unit again?

How will I use and build on knowledge, understandings, skills, attitudes, and values students have developed in this unit?

# Christians in Australia

According to the 1996 census,  
Australia's total population was

17 892 423.

Of these, 12 582 764 listed  
their religion as 'Christian'.

In groups  
examine the statistics  
and discuss the  
questions.

## Christian denomination

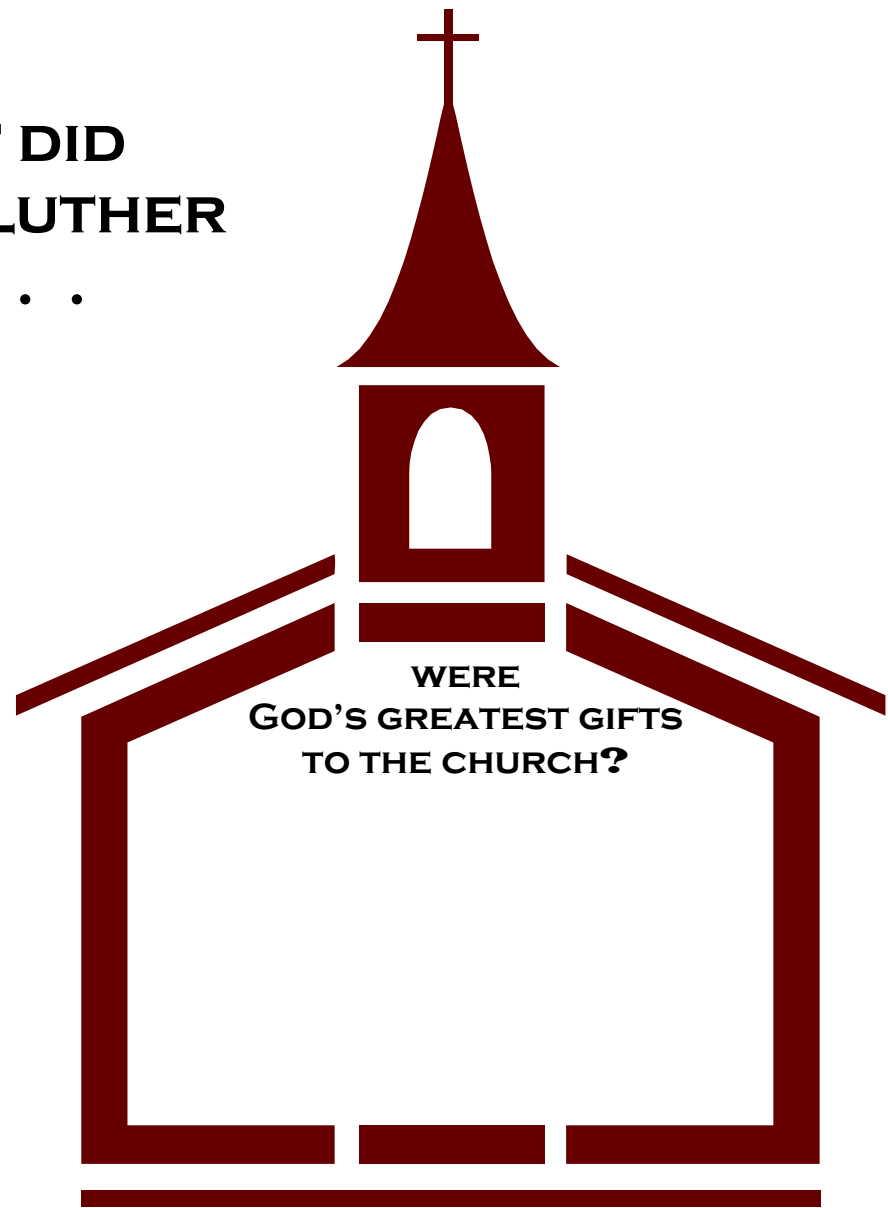
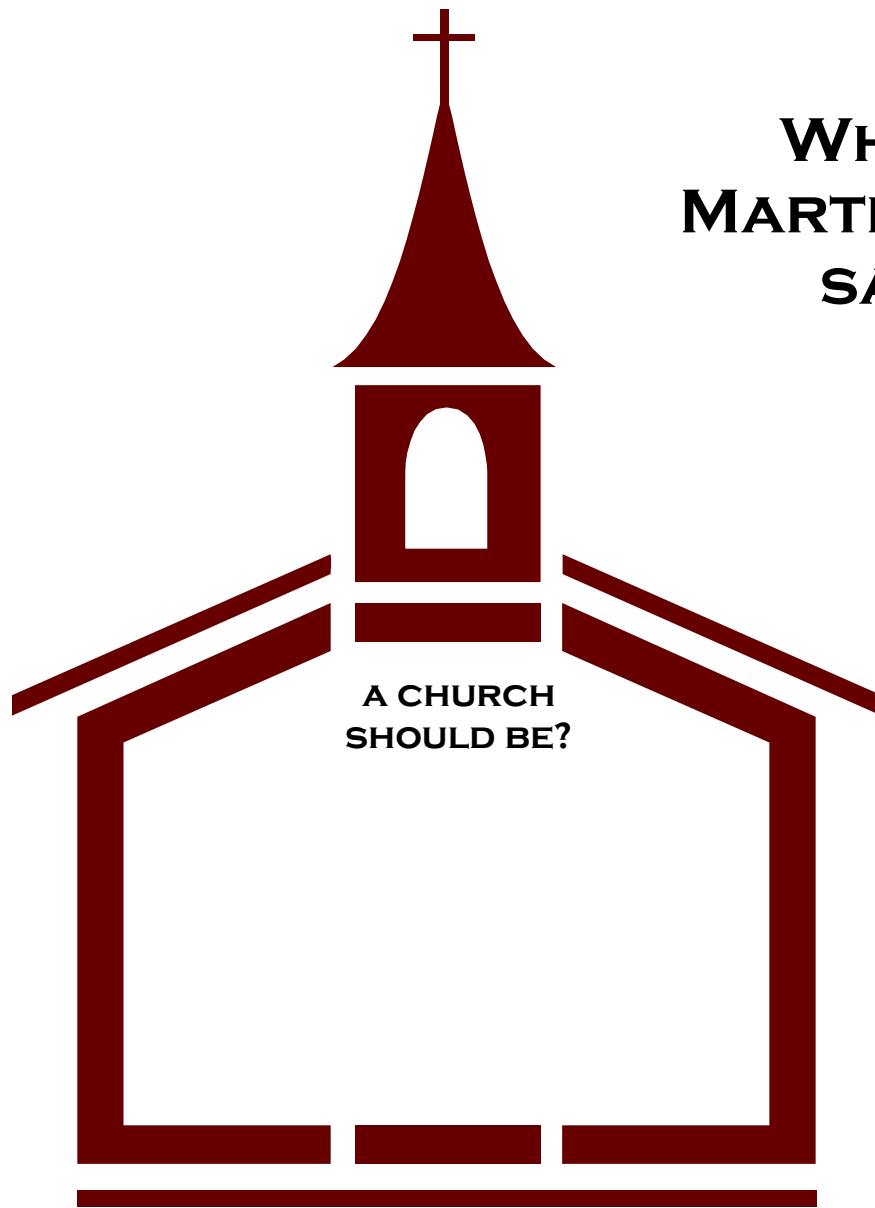
## listed in 1996 census as belonging to the denomination

## listed in 1991 National Church Life Survey as attenders

Anglican	3 903 324	318 407
Catholic	4 798 950	not listed
Baptist	295 178	131 593
Lutheran	249 989	76 761
Uniting	1 334 917	252 156
Pentecostals	174 720	177 908
Church of Christ	75 023	55 475

- ◆ What is a Christian denomination?
- ◆ Which is the largest Christian denomination in Australia? Why do you think it is so large?
- ◆ What surprises you about the statistics?
- ◆ What would the census statistics lead you to think?
- ◆ Which set of statistics do you believe is more reliable? Why?
- ◆ What do the statistics reveal about the Christian churches in Australia ?
- ◆ What do you think are some of the problems facing the Christian churches in Australia today?

**WHAT DID  
MARTIN LUTHER  
SAY . . .**



# LUTHERANS IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND



The Lutheran church is organised in the following structure.

The local congregation belongs to a district:  
Western Australia, South Australia and Northern Territory, Victoria and Tasmania,  
New South Wales, Queensland, and New Zealand.

The districts together make up the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA)  
which has an elected national president.

The LCA has a membership of 96 000 people. They all share in these church functions:

## **Luther Seminary**

training pastors, teachers and other church workers

## **Openbook Publishers**

## **Communications**

Media Services, *The Lutheran* magazine

## **Inter-church Relations**

dialogue with other Christian denominations

## **Worship Resources**

## **Lutheran Schools**

primary and secondary

## **Social and Bioethical Questions**

research and advice

## **Archives**

maintaining historical records

## **Youth Ministry**

## **Church Cooperation in World Mission**

working primarily with Lutheran churches in Southeast Asia,  
providing specialised training for their workers,  
also supporting overseas missionaries and Bible translators