**LEA Values; a framework for living**

Values provide a framework for decision making. The Lutheran Education Australia framework, *Lifelong qualities for learners* “defines the ethos of Lutheran Schools: ‘As central to their mission and ministry, Lutheran schools seek to nurture individuals who are aware of their humanity, open to the influence of the holy spirit and growing in and living according to a cohesive worldview while living in community and reflecting the characteristics of God through core values, especially love, justice, compassion, forgiveness, service, humility, courage, hope, quality and appreciation” (LEA Statement of Values).

This resource provides thought starters, theological underpinnings and suggestions as to how this framework can be utilised in classroom devotions and college worship and staff bible studies.

A word of note: this resource has been compiled to run across campuses – so adaptation will need to be made to make it age appropriate. Use those resources that are helpful. If you find other resources, email them to me, so that they can be made available to others for future years.

**Term 1 Week 2**

(Please note that the theme Hope runs for two weeks)

**LIFELONG QUALITIES FOR LEARNERS STATEMENT**

**Hope** (expectation, trust in, faith in, anticipation, look forward to, expect, desire, aspire, optimism) …

Hope enables us to look forward with expectation and confidence, placing our trust and faith in God’s provision of the things we need to handle all kinds of situations and events that occur. Hope is openended, open to all possibilities and not limited by what we might wish for. Hope allows God to define our lives.

Psalm 31:14-15, John 6:20, Romans 8:38-39, Ephesians 3:11-12, Philippians 4:6-7 …

**CODE OF ETHICS statement**

**Hope**

*We place our trust and faith in God’s provision of the things we need to handle all kinds of situations and events and look forward with trust and confidence*

*Therefore we:*

*+ appreciate that all interactions are opportunities for the Holy Spirit to work*

*+ actively seek to develop our personal resilience*

**Key Texts, Biblical Comment and Devotional Ideas:**

*John 6:20 “Jesus called out to them, “Don’t be afraid. I am here!””*

***The context:*** Jesus has just fed the 5000, and has sent his disciples on a boat while he retreated for some reconnecting time with God; this speaks about the importance of meditation. While they were on a boat, a gale sprang up and Jesus appeared to them “walking on water”. They were terrified, but Jesus’ response was to focus on his presence *“Don’t be afraid. I am here!”*

***Teaching thought:***Note that this version of the story is slightly different from the Matthew 14:22f story, in which Jesus sends the disciples on their way. Of interest is that the New Living Translation (of John 6) leaves the impression that the disciples waited for a while for Jesus, but when he did not turn up they left without him. Also of interest is that both passages are a continuance of the account of the feeding of the 5000, whereby Jesus’ blessing of the loaves and fish filled the bellies of the crowd. What does all of this suggest about how the crowds understood hope?

***Discuss****:*

What gives you hope?

What is hope? How do you understand it?

As you begin a new school year, what are the things that you are hoping for?

Jesus’ first words to his fearful disciples were “Do not be afraid, I am here”.

For those who remember Zachary Smith in Lost in Space, often uttered the phrase “Never fear, Smith is here” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTBt6aQwceg>. Why do you think did that create anxiety in the family Robinson? Why should Jesus’ words provide confidence?

Current psychological research speaks of the importance that having hope brings to mental health. In what respects can having hope in something/someone beyond yourself be beneficial for mental health?

As a class, on a chart define “hope” and set some aspirational goals as to things that each person in the class can do to assist hope to become a strong expression of the classroom environment. During the week, do a classroom check out as to how things are going (perhaps using circle time).



***Additional Resources:***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2EDCjF0rrg> (Lionel Hun dancer/ choreographer was performing in Tokyo during the Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami. Four days after he evacuated to Macau where he decided to express his love for Japan by making this dance video « Hope ».

How does the dance speak to you about the driving motivation of hope?

***Symbols***

What symbol best defines your understanding of hope?

What do the following symbols suggest about hope?







***Inspirational Item***

Each inspirational item is an abstract item with no ‘obvious’ link to the Bible or the Christian faith – this is where the challenge begins! We challenged students and teachers to find that link, to make sense of that item and see where it has meaning in our Christian lives.



***Action/Response:***

How might you respond to living with hope?