

MOUNTAINSIDE RUMBLINGS

Mountainside
Lutheran Church

June/July 2018
Volume 17, Issue 4

The Body of The Church

Our bodies are incredible. When God created us, he must have thought long and hard about how he would put us together. Just look at the following stats for an eye opener.....

- Our heart beats around 100,800 times every day.
- Our lungs inhale over two million litres of air every day, without even thinking. They are large enough to cover a tennis court.
- Our brain is more complex than the most powerful computer and has over 100 billion nerve cells.
- When we touch something, we send a message to our brain at 124 mph.
- In one square inch of our hand we have nine feet of blood vessels, 600 pain sensors, 9000 nerve endings, 36 heat sensors and 75 pressure sensors.

But there is something else that is incredible about our bodies. No part of our bodies exist for themselves, our bodies were created in such a way that each part depends on the rest of the body to survive and accomplish it's job. As an example, try scratching your right hand thumb with your right hand thumb. We can't do it - unless there is something wrong. In fact, if our bodies don't work together with each part helping the other and depending on others, then we die.

The same goes for our Church. We are a body. Each person in the Church depends on others and each person is important to the Church as a whole. And each person has something important to contribute to the Church which will enhance our Church and help it to grow and become a better place. It is only as we all work together, each contributing our part that our Church will

continue to be healthy and strong. But when one part goes it's own way, or one part doesn't do it's job, then problems occur. For example, if a person starts an argument with others, the rest in the Church suffer. Or if a person doesn't do their job, the workload would fall on others to do it. Or when someone is only interested in what they want to the exclusion of all others, things become unbalanced. Or when people start to criticize others without trying to find out the facts, relationships are strained and attendance drops.

But don't forget that each body has a head that controls it's workings. Yes, your Pastor may be a great pastor, but that is not the head I am talking about. The head of Mountainside is God our Father. It is he who guides and blesses everything that happens in the Church, and because of his presence in our Church, we can work together as a body should. Our Church policies are based on his wisdom. Our discipline is done in his love. Our care for each other is a reflection of the care he has for each of us.

And this love and care doesn't only happen at Church. God follows us where ever we go. He is with us through thick and thin and promises never to leave us. And even though we don't always do the right thing, he will do all he can to keep our relationship with him strong.

So congratulations to everyone involved in the Church. Together we are a body that helps, supports and encourages each other so that our children can grow into important members of our community.

Pastor Lou Pfeiffer

Greetings from The Kitchen Family:

Hello to all of you at Mountainside. Julie, Josiah, Caleb, Samuel and I, are looking forward to moving over to Auckland in July, and we would like to take this opportunity to briefly let you know a little about us.

As many of you will know I grew up in New Zealand. I was born in Wellington, but had frequently moved around to different parts of NZ. I spent most of my time living in Feilding, where at the invitation of my next door neighbour, went to Sunday School at Holy Trinity and have been in the Lutheran Church since. Although, I did live in the city of Auckland for a while when I was very little (under the age of 5), as my mother grew up in Devonport, where my Grandfather worked at the Naval base.

I moved over to South Australia in 1996 at the age of 17. This is where I met Julie and we were married. We have spent our married life living in South Australia and Victoria, where I worked as a family counsellor and also a drought counsellor, before going to study at Australian Lutheran College, in 2010. I was ordained in 2014 and have served 3 years in Northern Tasmania and now 6 months as a locum in Mildura, Victoria.

Julie grew up in a town called Loxton, in regional South Australia, and came to Adelaide to study Agricultural Science. I met her through the Glynde Lutheran Church, and the rest is history as they say. Julie worked as a scientist for the Adelaide University before leaving her work to raise our children.

Josiah is 14 and loves reading and music, particularly playing his African drum (called a Djembe).

Caleb is 11 ½ and is the artist in our family. Caleb has a love of boats and loves to draw them. Samuel is 9 and loves playing sport, especially cricket; board games and reading.



At the age of five, our neighbours invited me to Sunday School. At the time my family were not believers. I was baptised at the age of 9 and through this, my then step Father and Mother, started to attend church and have been involved in the church ever since. Hearing the Gospel proclaimed and taught to me at such a young age, is something that I am eternally grateful for and which I frequently thank our Lord for. My upbringing in the Lutheran Church in NZ, particularly in Fielding instilled in me a sense of mission, that I have never lost, during my time in the Lutheran Church, both in NZ and in Australia. I have a strong heart and desire for proclaiming the Gospel of our Lord Jesus to those, who have heard

and need encouragement, and to those who have not yet heard and our Lord has done for them. As we prepare to take up the call for me to be your pastor at Mountainside, know that you as a congregation are in our prayers. I look forward to what our Lord has planned for us as we journey together in the Gospel. We also look forward as a family to meeting you all and getting to you know you.

Pastor Nich and Family.

**PASTOR NICH KITCHEN & FAMILY INSTALLATION SERVICE
SUNDAY 5TH AUGUST
10AM**

Followed by a Potluck fellowship Lunch
Please bring along a plate of food to share
All welcome!

Mt Wellington Foodbank

Mountainside's Foodbank Service Month is Coming Up in August!

- Serving the needy in our community is a call from our Lord. At Mountainside, we try to be a support for those in the community who are suffering and the Mt Wellington Foodbank is one of those important service areas. We share this service with 3 other churches in the Mt Wellington/Ellerslie area. 2018 has been a challenge for all of us as the demand for food is at some of the highest levels we have seen in the 25 years the Foodbank has been in operation. Mountainside's next service month is coming up in August and we need your help! The Foodbank needs volunteers to pack the parcels and to delivery the parcels and there are a few other duties that we also all contribute to. And we are always in need of food donations!! The sign-up roster sheet will be out in mid-July, so please prayerfully consider how you can help. If this ministry area is of interest to you, please talk to me or one of the other volunteers who have been involved in the past. There is always room for more volunteers as **'many hands make light work'!!**

Roxanne Bakke, Mountainside Foodbank Coordinator



Parish Council Update

- ◆ A decision was made at the AGM in March to sell the current manse at 16 Lushington Place and the purchase of a new manse closer to the church. The property was on the market for over a month without any offers being made. With the impending arrival of the Kitchen family in mid-July, Parish Council made the decision to withdraw from the sale process and instead renovate the bathroom, kitchen, en-suite at the current manse. This decision will be ratified at a special parish meeting on Sunday 27th May.
- ◆ In preparation for the Kitchen family, we'd like to have a working bee to clean the outside of the manse the weekend before they arrive on Saturday 7th July at 9am. If you are available, please come around and help with the tidy up.
- ◆ Regarding the Heat Pump situation, we've now received an updated quote of \$9,500 + GST. Our fundraising is coming along nicely, we are now two thirds of the way there. If you would like to make a donation directly into the church bank account details are: 12-3018-0140750-50 and mark the reference as 'Heat Pumps'. Our next 'Munchies for Heating' fundraiser is next Sunday 3rd June.

Partnership Opportunity with Lutheran Media

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For many years now, people right across Australia have been encouraged, uplifted and pointed towards Jesus through *your* support of Lutheran Media. Right now we have the opportunity to take this life impact to our brothers and sisters in New Zealand. Will you help to establish the work of Lutheran Media in New Zealand by making a donation? You can donate by visiting www.lutheranmedia.org.au/donate now. Together we can share hope and a message of real life in Jesus with so many more people.

New Mountainside Administrator—Jenna Hewett

Hi everyone, this is officially my first Rumlblings edition to go to print—hopefully you enjoy it! For those that don't know me, my name is Jenna and I've recently joined the Mountainside team as Office Administrator. The last few weeks have been a whirlwind of training with Kathy (who has been a fantastic teacher) and even though there is so much to learn, I'm very happy to be in the role. A few things about me, I'm married to Nick and we have 3 children (Stella 10 years, Jade 8 years, and Zachary who is nearly 5 years old). We reside on the beautiful North Shore of Auckland and in my spare time I enjoy socialising with family & friends, reading, knitting and other crafting, adventuring with the kids wherever that takes us (park, beach, road trip etc) . Thank you to all those who have helped me learn the ropes in my new role and the for support I've received.—Jenna

Why Congregational Singing Matters Today More than Ever

By Keith Getty

I love Yo-Yo Ma.

The stellar, nearly flawless strokes of this master cellist's bow dancing upon tensioned strings resurrect meticulously crafted melodies conjured centuries ago among master musicians. Centuries have passed since then. And yet I lie on my bed at night listening to these classics, revived at the hands of a modern prodigy—every note coming to me through tiny, white headphones, as if passing through time and space.

Oh, how things have changed from the days when my parents would take us on Sunday evenings to the homes of missionary or pastor friends. These nights would often end with everyone singing together, even though some of us with more dubious musical giftings could make the whole affair excruciating.

Yo-Yo Ma it was not.

But it *was* something, and something special. Perhaps the less-than-subtle changes between those days and now bear witness to how we digest music differently—a change that's made its way into our churches.

Far From Dead: Just as home entertainment has morphed from family and neighbourhood sing-alongs to the ability to consume whatever music the global professionals offer, the church has shifted away from an emphasis on corporate singing. At best, larger churches have shifted to more professional, performance-oriented music. And smaller churches have adopted less of the traditional "come one, come all" since because it feels outdated, irrelevant, and at times downright embarrassing. Who can compete with the masters, after all?

It seems our society's progress has played a role in the end of congregational singing. Right?

Wrong.

Congregational singing is far from dead, mainly because it's connected to a source of life higher than cultural trends or modern comparisons. Even so, it receives less attention and adulation than it should—and there are several reasons. First, people tend to be attracted to larger churches where the "performance" of music approximates the professional; in principle, there's nothing wrong with that. Second, the music in most churches tends to be so loud that the congregation simply cannot hear itself sing. Third, smaller churches with less ability to produce professional-sounding music tend to minimize singing altogether, so as to minimize embarrassment or perceived weakness.

But now is the moment to re-embrace the crucial role of congregational singing in our churches.

Singing is an act of obedience; we gather and sing because we're called to. Like telling the truth.

Like loving our wives and our children. Like loving our neighbour as ourselves. These may seem like bold statements, but consider this: Singing is a real and tangible expression of loving the Lord with our whole hearts and our whole selves, and loving our neighbour as ourselves.

Singing is also a privilege, a foretaste of heaven. After all, one day in the future every tribe, language, nation, and people will sing as one congregation before the throne of the risen Lamb. Until then, we find a microcosm of that day in the unimpressive form of congregational worship. As we anticipate the matchless glories of heaven, there's immeasurable value in our singing together on earth. The extent of this importance becomes increasingly realized in three ways.

1. Congregational singing affects us as individuals.

First, singing affects us as individuals. In our society depression abounds, self-worth is confused, marriages and families are shattering, suicide rates are soaring, and a sense of global turmoil endures. Amid all this, it's only when we worship that we put God in his rightful spot, engaging him with our intellect, emotions, and bodies. We cannot rise above the world's difficulties until we turn our eyes to the one higher than ourselves.

We proclaim in congregational worship what sometimes seems impossible to proclaim in our natural selves: "You are the centre of the universe. I am but a moment; you are eternal." In worship, what's *personal* engages with what's *eternal*. And so as we sing, we lift our eyes to what's higher, and we find relief. Ultimately, our minds are renewed as we remind ourselves of God's mercy and offer our bodies as living sacrifices to him ([Rom. 12:1–2](#)).

2. Congregational singing affects our community.

Second, congregational singing affects our community. What it does for us as individuals ripples outward toward those around us. The apostle Paul often encouraged the earliest churches toward authentic worship. He told these new Christians to encourage one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs ([Eph. 5:19](#)). In other words, when we sing we're reminding each other eternal truths

and therefore forging a lasting spiritual bond between us. We're not merely singing to God; we're singing to one another.

3. Congregational singing helps our witness.

Last, congregational singing is a radical witness to those looking on. Imagine what our singing together sounds like to an onlooking world that doesn't believe. They see people singing together passionately. They see communities of desperate individuals joining together, men and women who couldn't golf in the same country club or send their kids to the same school. And yet they're joined together, singing to one another the unique melody of the good news.

I was told as a child to "sing up" because it might be a good witness. But singing is *always* a witness to something—either to the greatest privilege of our lives or to the fact that, frankly, we're bored. From those who visit our churches, to our children who've yet to believe, to people who hear our voices from the sidewalk—when we sing together of the grace of our Saviour, it's a powerful witness.

Eternal Concerto

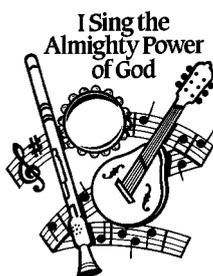
I love Yo-Yo Ma. But singing with God's people? Joining the eternal chorus? Embracing our blood-bought destiny? Standing with those who have tears in their eyes? Remembering when those same people stood next to me when I had tears in mine? Singing before this world of the only hope we have in the world?

This is the eternal concerto of the soul—the ultimate masterpiece.

*Keith Getty is a Northern Irish composer, best known for pioneering "modern hymns". Many of his songs are co-written with his wife, **Kristyn Getty**, and veteran British, English songwriter and worship leader **Stuart Townend**.*

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<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/why-congregational-singing-matters-today-more-than-ever/>



Once again we are selling Entertainment Books and Digital memberships to raise funds for our youth. Order forms are on the table in the foyer or you can order online using this link <http://www.entbook.co.nz/1001834>.

The price per book/digital membership is \$70 for which you get over \$20,000 worth of offers! See Jenna or Fredric if you would like to buy a book or would like more information.



Nina Sawyer

*On 12th May 2018 Nina joined our Lord in heaven,
at the age of 100 years.*

Nina was farewelled at a service held on 18th May.

BirthDay greetings

'Happy Birthday' and Best Wishes to the following people celebrating birthdays in June:

Sumita Golconda (5th) Molly Neal (9th)
 Maurice Heidrich (10th) Jennifer Jala (12th)
 Annette Nielsen-Geese (20th)
 Karen Rasmussen (22nd) Manita Beatty (25th)
 Tanya Sutton (25th)
 Tevita & Saimone Ongoongo (30th)

Wedding Anniversary Congratulations to:

Peter & Sumita Golconda 24 years on the 8th
 Bernard & Sandra Naish 5 years on the 15th

'Happy Birthday' and Best Wishes to the following people celebrating birthdays in July:

Sandra Naish (1st) Joshua Armstrong (3rd)
 Jeff McClintock (5th) Jenny Lindstrom (6th)
 Amberlee Jones (11th) Kathryn Skadiang (12th)
 Michael Meharg (15th) Margaret Ross (20th)
 Nina Girard de Soucanton (23rd)
 Zachary Hewett (25th) Bjorn Geese (27th)
 Mari Doss (27th) Ofa Ongoongo (29th)
 Ellie Skudder (30th)



*You are the body of Christ!
 Each one of you is a part of it.*

Deadline for articles for the Aug/Sept 2018 issue of 'Mountainside Rumbblings' is **MONDAY 23rd July 2018.**

PRAYER POINTS

In your prayers this month, please pray for the following:



We pray ...

- ✚ With thanks for the interim ministry of Pastor Lou Pfeiffer & wife Hazel who are with us until June 10th.
- ✚ For Pastor Nich Kitchen, his wife Julie & family as they prepare to move to Auckland. Lord, grant safe travel to them.
- ✚ For the members of our Parish Council, Elders and all who serve our parish through our various ministries.
- ✚ For the churches & volunteers involved with the Mt Wellington Foodbank and all who work with those in need.
- ✚ For all who are sick or suffering at this time—may God give them strength and his healing comfort.
- ✚ For peace in our troubled world. Be with all who have suffered tragedy through natural disasters, war, acts of terror, etc. Bless those working for Lutheran World Service and other disaster relief agencies as they provide assistance to those in need.
- ✚ For those in Hawaii affected by the erupting Kilauea volcano, may our Lord's comfort be with them at this unpredictable time.
- ✚ For all people who are injured and fearful as a result of terrorist attacks.
- ✚ For strength in our faith, may we remain steadfast in your love and show that to others even in times of stress, pain and unhappiness.
- ✚ For God's peace within our busy lives.

Don't forget that you have 3 options for receiving this newsletter—a printed copy available in the foyer of Mountainside Lutheran Church, we can post you a copy if you let us know your address, or we can email a copy in PDF format which you can enjoy in full colour!! Just contact the office and we will organise it for you. And please remember to let us know if your contact details change so we can alter our records accordingly.

Thanks very much.

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