

THROUGH THE YEARS

# Women in ministry

Servants of the LCANZ and beyond





LCA Women in Ministry

# Hannchen Nehrlich

Lobethal Seminary and Manse

Benefactor and Carer







## LCA Women in Ministry

# Hannchen Nehrlich

### Benefactor and Carer

Anna Christiane Nehrlich (née Rodatz) (1780-1863) cared for Pastor Fritzsche and his congregation while they waited to emigrate, completed the necessary payment for them to make their passage to South Australia on the *Skjöld*, and decided to accompany them. She assisted with the purchase of land in Lobethal. Her daughter Dorothea/Dorette/Dorchen married Pastor Fritzsche. Mrs Nehrlich initially lived with them, had a prolific garden, and fed the Fritzsches and the students of the Lobethal College, as well as providing butter and pig products for the community. She bought her own substantial home, and following her daughter's death a year later, her son-in-law lived with her until his own passing. She was then persuaded by a daughter to return to Germany.

LCA Women in Ministry

# Anna Ey

Missionary





## LCA Women in Ministry

# Anna Ey

## Missionary

Anna Victoria Ey (née Oster) (1839 – 1917) migrated to Australia when she was 8. Her missionary father died on the voyage. She married Teacher Johannes M R Ey in 1861 and five years later supported him when he studied for the ministry and then served in South Australia from the mid-north down to Mt Gambier, pastoring and establishing congregations. Only seven of their 13 children survived. Pastor Ey served his final 17 years in Lobethal. Anna wrote a memoir that tells us about the privations of the time, the friendship and quarrels of people, and the strictness of the church – and between the lines, her role in pastoral care and ministry to the community.





# Margaret Teichelmann

## Missionary

Margaret Nicholson (1824 – 1906) was eighteen when she married Missionary Pastor Christian Gottlob Teichelmann. She shared with him the dream of providing a safe place and employment for Kurna people away from the city, on a property they called Ebenezer, in Happy Valley, South Australia. She provided food for workers at the farm, and trained Aboriginal women in domestic skills and sewing. When they visited Piltiwodli (the place on the banks of the Torrens where Teichelmann and Schurmann had established a school and settlement for indigenous people, and documented the Kurna language) she taught English. Unable to fund the missionary work, they moved to a farm in Morphett Vale, then served Salem congregation and established congregations at Callington and Monarto, before retiring to farm near Stansbury where they joined the Methodist church.

They had fifteen children, twelve reaching maturity. Margaret taught them at home. They could not afford education for their children and only one son, Ebenezer, had secondary education; he became a doctor.

The Teichelmanns acted as a conscience to the community, standing beside the marginalized and oppressed.







LCA Women in Ministry

**Emma Geyer**

Teacher, Care Manager







**LCA Women in Ministry**

## **Emma Geyer**

**Teacher, Care Manager**

Emma Geyer (1870 - 1939), was the first female student when Immanuel College, Point Pass opened in 1895 as a secondary school and teacher training institution, with nine students. She had been working as a domestic labourer. After graduating, she became a teacher at Baldina before moving to Langmeil Lutheran School from 1908 until it closed in 1917. When she was Head Teacher there was a marked increase in the number of enrolled students.

She moved to New York in 1920 and became matron of a Children's Home and aged care facility. She was known as a visionary, with a strong commitment to the caring and educational work of the Church.





LCA Women in Ministry

# Frieda Strehlow née Keysser

Missionary, Public Health Practitioner,  
Ethnographer





# Frieda Strehlow née Keysser

**Missionary, Public Health Practitioner, Ethnographer**

Friederike Johanna Henriette Keysser (1875 – 1957) was nineteen when she followed Carl Strehlow to Australia in 1895. After their marriage she accompanied him to Hermannsburg, where their six children were born. Frieda devoted herself to reducing infant mortality at the mission, and to try and address the situation that traditional knowledge was sometimes not working in the changed circumstances for indigenous people, she taught the girls western basic health practices, sewing, and cooking and the care of children. She learned Arrarnte/Aranda fluently, contributed to Strehlow's ethnographic publications, translated hymns and in letters to friends and family documented her life and the life of aboriginal people in that remote part of Australia.





LCA Women in Ministry

# Helga Freund-Zinnbauer

Librarian, Urban Missionary





## LCA Women in Ministry

# Helga Freund-Zinnbauer

## Librarian, Urban Missionary

Dr Helga Josephine Freund-Zinnbauer (née Alscher) (1909-1980) moved away from the turmoil of Europe to Australia in 1940 (her husband had Jewish ancestry). She had a doctorate in psychology, many qualifications, and spoke six languages fluently. Because he was German, her husband was interned for four years almost as soon as they arrived in Australia.

Helga was a specialist librarian at the Barr Smith Library until 1974.

Helga was a full partner in her husband's work as City Missioner, contributing her salary (for the mission work was poorly funded), her time and skills, providing spiritual care and practical support to the sick, aged and poor, to prisoners and young people. When post-war migrants started arriving in Adelaide they helped them obtain work and accommodation, and they provided a welcome for seamen when they were in Adelaide. They established the City Mission Hostel in 1951 and lived there for 24 years, providing accommodation and support for thousands of needy people, including seamen, people discharged from hospital or prison, and the homeless.

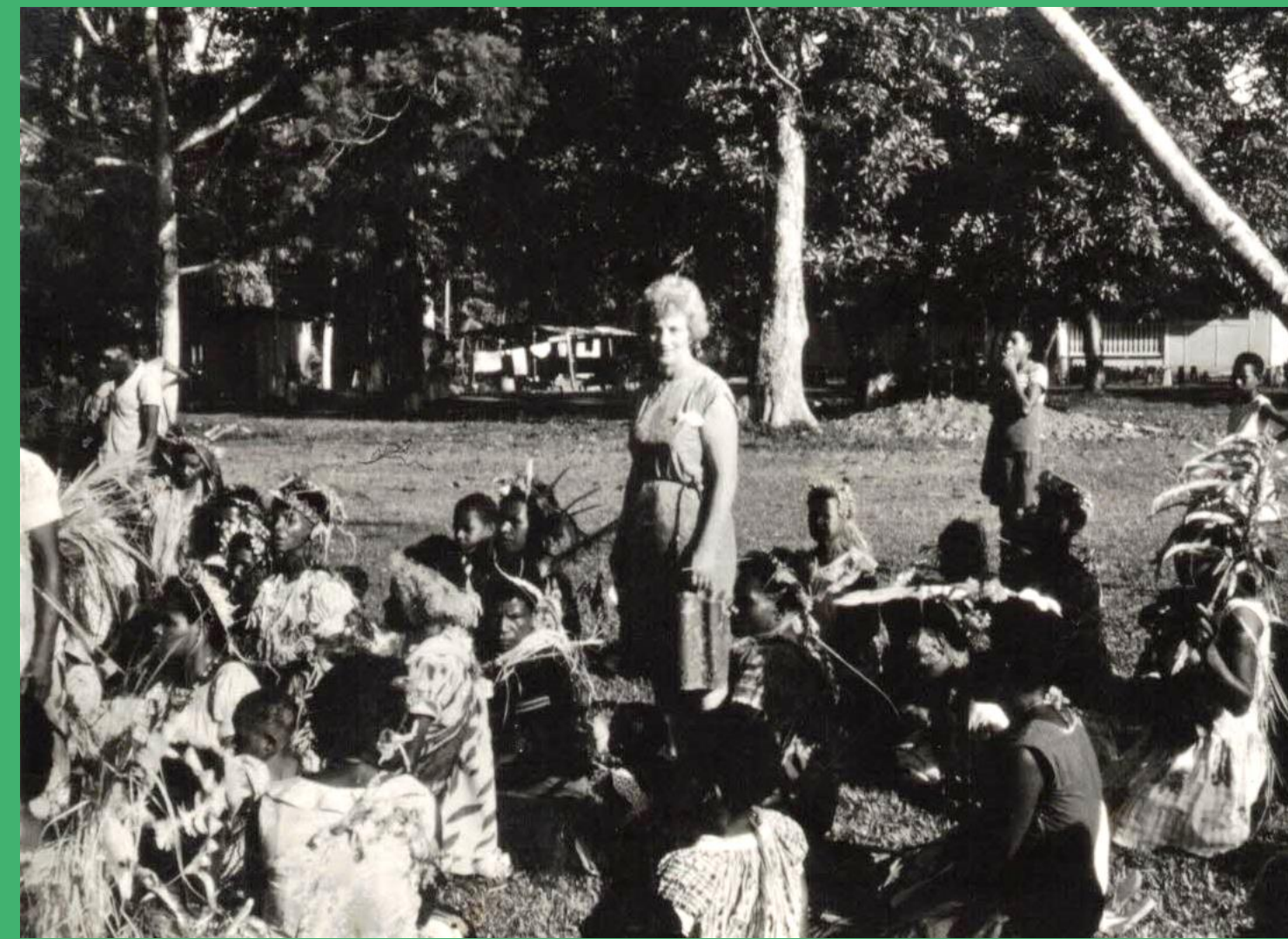




LCA Women in Ministry

# Dulcie Held (née Gehling)

Teacher, Advocate, Theologian, Social Activist





LCA Women in Ministry

# Dulcie Held (née Gehling)

## Teacher, Advocate, Theologian, Social Activist

Dulcie Verna Held née Gehling (1918-2009) was a Lutheran Primary School teacher prior to her marriage, and pleased to return to teach in later life, at Immanuel College. She was the first President of the combined LWA, who took control of their own activities, publishing the *Lutheran Women* magazine (with Dulcie writing the Bible Studies for many years), and organising retreats. She was on the Social Welfare Committee of the Church and worked with a small group to establish Lutheran Community Care. She was faithful in visiting the disabled and those with mental health issues living at Hillcrest and Strathmont, as well as with the Travellers' Aid Society.

Dulcie worked towards appropriate acknowledgement of and support for Deaconesses, setting up a home in North Adelaide to be a Deaconess Mother House and running retreats. After union she continued supporting parish workers. She designed and facilitated retreats for women in PNG.

She was chosen to go with the Australian contingent to the 4<sup>th</sup> LWF Assembly in 1963 and was Australia's representative to the women's gathering prior to the Assembly. She gained inspiration for various aspects of her support for women in ministry, and for the disadvantaged, from her international colleagues.





## LCA Women in Ministry

# Gertrude Jacob

### Educationalist

Elsa Hilda Gertrude Jacob (1921 – 2021) started teaching at 15, when she assisted her father by teaching in one of two classrooms at Light Pass Lutheran School, which was re-opened in 1936. She taught at Appila and St Johns Lutheran School, Highgate before being the founding principal of Lutheran schools at Loxton, SA (1947) and Angaston, SA (1962).

After her retirement Gertrude continued to be a staunch supporter of Lutheran Missions, including being the main stamp receiver (and cleaner and sorter) for Stamps for Missions in South Australia.





LCA Women in Ministry

# Mary Guntner (née Fritsch)

Director of Mission Medical Department

Papua New Guinea (1958 – 1970)





LCA Women in Ministry

# Mary Guntner (née Fritsch)

Director of Mission Medical Department

Papua New Guinea (1958 – 1970)

Dr Mary Walda Guntner née Fritsch (1930 – 2014) answered a call to practice in PNG three years after graduation from medical school. Her work covered emergency medicine, treating tropical diseases, working to eliminate tuberculosis and leprosy, and whatever other complex medical and surgical needs came to her attention. She served as Medical Director for all of PNG missions and trained indigenous nurses. Initially working at Yagaum, near Madang, and then at Finschhafen at the Buangi and Butaweng hospitals, later she became the 'flying doctor' as she commuted frequently, (by boat and plane) incorporating Yagaum hospital again into her workload while being based in the Finschhafen area. With the Butaweng hospital alone having 600 beds, Mary was responsible for many patients at any one time.

As satisfying as was her medical career in PNG and in Australia, she shared late in life that she would have definitely chosen to be a pastor rather than a doctor or singer, if the option had existed.





LCA Women in Ministry

# Colleen Fitzpatrick

past Director, Lutheran Community Care (SA)





## LCA Women in Ministry

# Colleen Fitzpatrick

**past Director, Lutheran Community Care (SA)**

1949 –

Growing up in rural New South Wales, Colleen developed a keen sense of community, particularly within the church. Through involvement in Lutheran Youth of New South Wales she received her first leadership opportunities and training. Her career as a social worker led her to Lutheran Community Care where she became involved in management and governance and eventually became Director there. Colleen continues to use her skills in governance and organisation on national and district church committees and in ministry in her local congregation.

Colleen was the first lay woman to be appointed to the Commission on Theology and Inter-Church Relations during the early days of the discussion on the ordination of women as well as men. She remains convinced that in God's eyes we are all created equal and longs for that to be the reality within our church.





LCA Women in Ministry

# Helen Lockwood

past Director, Lutheran Community Care (SA)





LCA Women in Ministry

# Helen Lockwood

past Director, Lutheran Community Care (SA)

(1952-)

Inspired by parents who embodied grace and a keen sense of justice, Helen has been surprised at where she has been called to serve.

Starting as the first female President of LSF in SA she has continued to advocate for women in ministry and is saddened to see those who are called to public ministry suffer rejection by the church. This only makes her more determined to work for change.

Starting her working life as a teacher, she became a relationship educator with Lutheran Community Care SA and later led the organisation as Director. Always encouraged by the care and love of the people she served, participants, volunteers and staff, Helen remains hopeful that we can make a difference in the lives of those who are suffering.

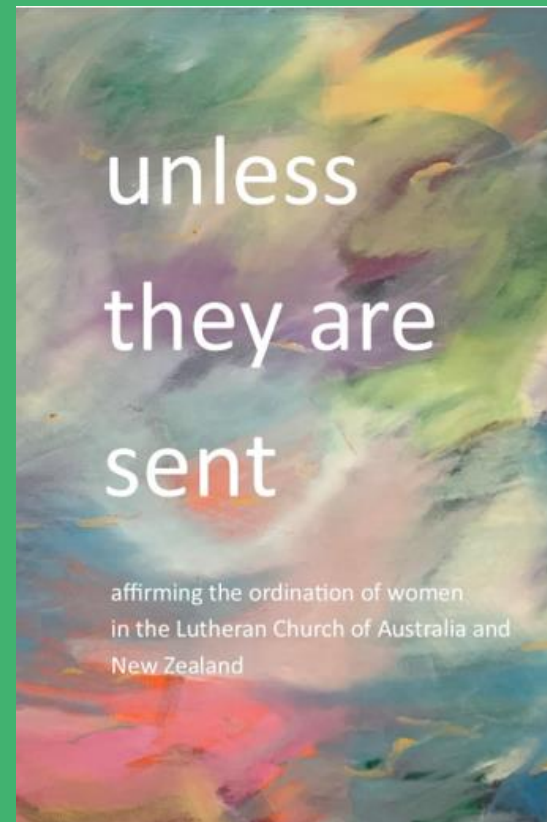




LCA Women in Ministry

# Tanya Wittwer

Church Worker, Theologian





## LCA Women in Ministry

# Tanya Wittwer

### Church Worker, Theologian

Dr Tanya Wittwer (1956 - ) has served in paid and voluntary pastoral positions as University and Hospital Chaplain, and Associate in Ministry at St Stephens, Adelaide, and St Mark's, Epping (now Lifeway). She was the first woman to be formally given the title "Chaplain", and has served on many National and District Committees and Commissions. She directed the children's program of the *Festival of Faith* in 1988 and in the 90s developed and facilitated workshops for clergy and pastoral workers on addressing domestic violence.

She completed preparation for ordained ministry in the US, and has been lecturing in preaching and pastoral care at the Adelaide College of Divinity. Tanya has worked tirelessly for the ordination of women for 50 years.

Her sense of call has been affirmed by many, but she wonders what that means for her now.





LCA Women in Ministry

# Kirstin Munchenberg

Chaplain, St Peter's Lutheran College, Indooroopilly





LCA Women in Ministry

# Kirstin Munchenberg

## Chaplain

In the mid 90s, Kirstin studied theology at the then Luther Seminary, expecting to become a Christian Studies specialist teacher. During that time, she essentially experienced a vision of having hands laid on her and a stole placed around her neck. From then on, she has wrestled with this calling to pastoral ministry.

After accepting that full-time teaching was not for her, she began working in University chaplaincy before receiving a call to school chaplaincy at St Peters in 2006. In the 18 years as a member of the ministry team at St Peters she has found great joy in finding new and innovative ways of speaking the gospel into the lives of young people, both in the classroom and in worship space. She also volunteers as a lay leader in the local St Peters congregation.

While finding great satisfaction in journeying with the school community and mentoring the young people of our church, Kirstin also acknowledges the limitations that come with not being an ordained pastor.





LCA Women in Ministry

# Allie Ernst

Director, Institute of Faith Education





## LCA Women in Ministry

# Allie Ernst

### Director, Institute of Faith Education

Allie is the Director of the Institute of Faith Education, a Registered Training Organisation of the Catholic Church. In this role she also manages nationally accredited VET qualifications in Christian Ministry and Theology from Certificate III through to Graduate Diploma which are used for ministry formation across a broad range of denominations. She has previously taught biblical studies at Adelaide College of Divinity.

Her postgraduate research analysed how traditions of Martha of Bethany were used to authorise and curtail the ministry of women in the early church.

Allie is profoundly grateful for the welcome and support she receives in her home parish where she serves as a lay reader, and for the shared ministry practices of this parish. She is a member of the UCA-LCA Dialogue and of the board for LORDS (Lutheran Ormeau Rivers District School).





**LCA Women in Ministry**

**Hanna Schulz**

**PNG Bible Translation Advisor**







**LCA Women in Ministry**

# Hanna Schulz

**PNG Bible Translation Advisor**

Hanna has worked in Papua New Guinea since 2012, in Bible Translation, Scripture Use and Vernacular Literacy, training local Christian people from a cluster of eight language communities in Gulf Province.





**LCA Women in Ministry**

# **Sue Westhorp**

**Pastoral Associate  
St Paul's Lutheran Church, Box Hill**





**LCA Women in Ministry**

# **Sue Westhorp**

**Pastoral Associate  
St Paul's Lutheran Church, Box Hill.**

After 14 years in hospital chaplaincy, spiritual care management and CPE supervision, Sue received a call and returned to a parish position in 2023. Her main focus as a pastoral associate is with child, youth and family ministry.

As well as a skilled pastoral and spiritual care practitioner, CPE supervisor/educator, Sue is a fine preacher and church musician.

Her congregation, pastoral colleagues and many others in the church affirm her call to ordained ministry.





LCA Women in Ministry

# Kathy Matuschka

Chaplain, The Wesley Hospital, Brisbane





LCA Women in Ministry

# Kathy Matuschka

**Chaplain, The Wesley Hospital, Brisbane**

Having first heard God's call to be a pastor in 2000, Kathy commenced paid ministry within the LCA Queensland District in 2018.

Kathy completed a Master of Theological Studies in 2019.

In 2024 Kathy commenced a pastoral placement within the Uniting Church in Australia as a Hospital Chaplain.

She also volunteers within her home congregation as a lay preacher.

As she continues to step into her calling, Kathy treasures the affirmations and encouragement she receives from friends, family, colleagues and congregation members.





LCA Women in  
Ministry

Leading  
Worship

30<sup>th</sup> Dec 2018





LCA Women in  
Ministry

Leading  
Worship

2021 - 2024





LCA Women in  
Ministry

Leading  
Worship

2021 - 2024

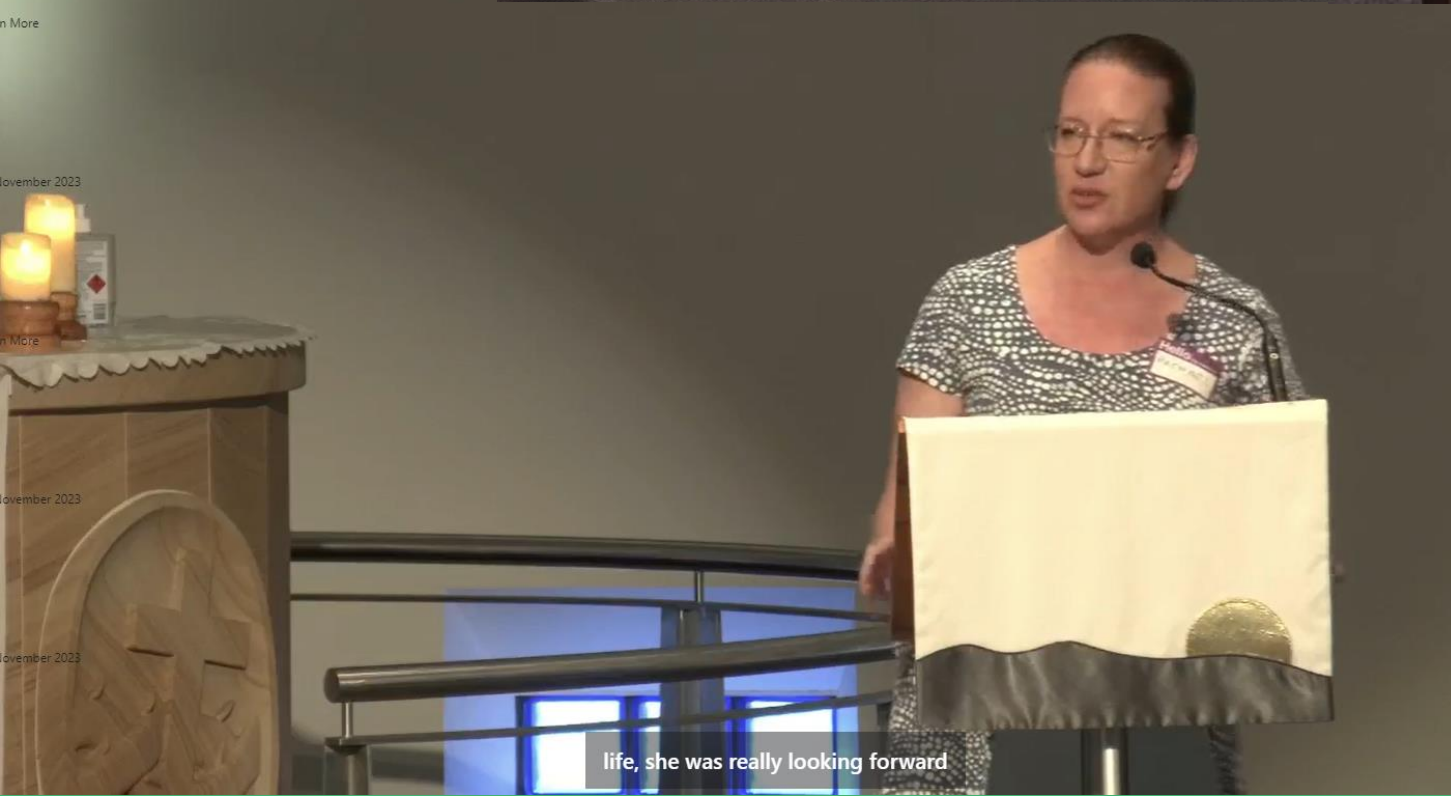




LCA Women  
in Ministry

Leading  
Worship

2021 - 2024





LCA Women  
in Ministry



THANK YOU to all the WOMEN  
in LEADERSHIP ROLES IN OUR CHURCH







# Join us!

Prepare a presentation on an LCA woman in ministry (past or present) and post it to [Support for Women's Ordination in the Lutheran Church of Australia \(LCA\)](#) (Facebook page)

or email it to

Streams in the Desert Community  
[connect@streamsinthedesert.com.au](mailto:connect@streamsinthedesert.com.au)

or

Add it to your socials!

#lcawomeninministry

#womeninministry





# Lifting Our Voices

A gathering for those who long for the ordination of all who are called within the LCANZ

**Saturday 27 April 2024**

Gather. Celebrate. Listen. Workshop.

Be encouraged for the journey.





# Lifting Our Voices

A gathering for those who long for the ordination of all who are called within the LCANZ

Supported by:



Streams *in the desert* Community

*Advocating for the ordination of women and gender equity in the LCA/NZ*

and the

Women's Ministry Network



# PROGRAM

## WELCOME & OPENING WORSHIP

### LIFTING OUR VOICES

*Lifting our voices in lament - heartbreak and breakthrough*

*Lifting our voices in hope – vision for the future of our church*

*Lifting our voices together – a time to speak*

- BREAK -

LIFTING OUR VOICES TOGETHER - *A time to gather*

### THE WAY FORWARD

### LIFTING OUR VOICES LOUDER

*Panel discussion & hub workshops*

## CLOSING REFLECTION

