



Southern Barossa Lutheran Church

To be a **vibrant** church community,
passionate disciples of Christ, **empowering**
and **equipping** our people to share the
love and **joy** of Jesus to all.

PASTOR INFORMATION

For call Meeting on 8th December 2024

Our Vision Statement said..

The Lead Pastor is called to work with us to build upon the collaborative work we have begun.

1. To work as Lead pastor in a two pastor setting.
2. Able to work in a Ministry team.
3. Be a trainer, mentor to equip all ages across a wider range of ministries.
4. Be enthusiastic to provide a wide range of worship styles.
5. Be comfortable and supportive of our Vision Statement.

Nich Kitchen | Age 46

Nich is Married to Julie with three children. Nich is currently serving at Mountainside Lutheran Church Auckland New Zealand.

During his Vicarage Nich worked in a Multi-point Parish. Pastor Nich has served in Mildura and Tasmania. He has been in Auckland for the past 6.5 years and was elected to position of Assistant Bishop LCNZ in September 2022.

Nich understood our vision for the SBLC and considered it to be very similar to his vision of how we could walk the path we have been shown.

Nich grew up in a Church Plant area in NZ. This shaped him a bit differently to others who came via the classic LCA environment.

He recognises that the Church can no longer function with the pastor doing everything. He believes the pastor's role is mainly in Ministry and that we need to look at the bigger picture

and work in new ways to identify and meet the various ministry needs of the community in which he is placed. He is an advocate and instructor for training, encouraging and equipping lay members to perform pastoral functions across all areas of ministry including preaching.

Nich gained valuable real-world experience, including 6 years as a counsellor in Family Systems Theory prior to entering ALC in his mid thirties. This allows him to look at things from a broader perspective and enables him to present the message in today's real-world terms.

When asked what personal development we could assist him with, he replied 'understanding team dynamics' would be a great benefit for the congregation and himself.

Nich would be a good fit for us. His life experiences, growth through the Church and easy going manner, have equipped him well to be a Lead Pastor and an effective member of our Ministry Team. He would take a step in faith with us as we continue to enact our vision statement.

In Nich's words:-

"I have a passion for teaching and preaching, that has a focus on being theologically sound, but with a focus on what God is saying to us.

As a Pastor I take my responsibility of oversight seriously, but at the same time I make sure that people are free to use gifts as the Spirit leads them."

Ben Hentschke | Age 46



Ben is married to Kelly with a 10-year-old daughter. His current position is a fulltime role as Assistant Bishop Qld District.

Ben served as sole pastor at Birdwood from 2009 to 2013. Then 4 years as an associate pastor and 4 years as lead pastor at St Johns in Ipswich Qld, which also covered Bethany in Raceview and Grace in Riverview. Ben was appointed to fulltime role of First Assistant Bishop

for the Queensland District in mid 2021. This year he was reappointed to the role for another 3 years. Ben is also a member of the LCA General Church Board.

Ben understood our vision for the SBLC and has experience as an associate then lead pastor in a multi-pastor parish. Ben understands the need and benefit for clearly defined roles for the Lead and Associate pastors.

Ben believes the pastor can no-longer be expected to do everything and this requires the Church to change the way it functions. The pastor's role should focus on ministry activities and initiatives rather than administration. To this end, Ben believes we have an opportunity for leadership to equip and empower lay members in all areas of ministry.

When asked what personal development we could assist him with, he replied 'gain experience in a large multi-site parish ie 1 week or so with Lifeway in NSW – learn from them'

Ben's vision and experience would enable him to be a Lead Pastor and effective member of our Ministry Team as we continue to enact our vision statement.

In Ben's words:-

"I would love to involve (and do involve) lay members (both male and female) in every area of worship Leadership, including preaching, leading "liturgy", prayers, reading, blessing, worship planning and more. My role as Pastor is to equip, prepare, coach, train and empower members of the local church to be involved in the surrounding community in accordance with the needs of the local community and God's vision for His church. Equip Lay Leaders to be Lay Preachers. Teach Ministry skills to both Men and Women. Visioning is another strength that I have as a Pastor. I am constantly looking for new and exciting ways in which I believe God is leading me and the church to be able to continue to reach our community and lead people to become truly devoted followers of Jesus Christ. I spend time in prayer and the Word, discerning where God is leading us and then being able to share and express the vision to my leadership team and church."