Joy is one of those things that is often found to be missing, from time to time. There might be all kinds of things that stress us out or cause us anger or bring sadness and sorrow—and then we look at these words from St Paul and we say, “What kind of a planet did he live on? Surely we can’t be happy all the time!”

And yet, why do you think St Paul tells people to “rejoice in the Lord always”, if they didn’t actually need this encouragement? We’re not simply talking about happiness, in a superficial sense. But Jesus actually gives joy as his gift—he turns the blandness of everyday life into something that is valued by all the angels of heaven. In our school chapel this week, we are going to read about Jesus changing water into wine. Why did he do this? Because he wants to make the people happy, and Jesus is the source of happiness. God bless you and encourage you this week with his joy!

Dear Lord Jesus, teach me to rejoice and be glad in you. Amen.

Parent Information Night
Thank you to families in Year 4 to 6 who came along last Thursday evening to our Parent Information Night. We appreciated the opportunity to meet you at the beginning of the school year.

Tonight we welcome parents of Foundation to Year 3 students to our Parent Information Night. I will share information and thoughts on our year ahead at 7:00pm in the school hall after which you are invited to move to your child’s classroom.

Your support by attendance at these evenings is greatly appreciated as we understand the impact of a strong home and school partnership on students learning.

St Mark’s Activities and Requests
- F to Year 3 Parent Information Evening beginning at 7:00pm in the school hall.
- Chess Club began this morning and will continue each week from 11:00am in the hall. It is open to any interested students.
- Assembly tomorrow beginning at 9:00am in the hall. Year 6B will be sharing at Assembly. All are welcome.
- SRC and House Captains announcement and installation at Friday chapel 9:00am in the hall followed by coffee and chat in the library.
- Volunteer’s training sessions on Wednesday 18th at 9:00am and Thursday 26th February at 2:30pm.
- School Photos will be held on Wednesday 18th March.
- Our P and F AGM is being held on Thursday 19th February at 7:00pm in the school library.
- F to Year 6 Twilight Sports Day is being held on Friday 20th March.
- Pedal Prix Team meeting tomorrow evening at 7:30pm in the school library.

Student Leadership
Elections have been held for our Semester 1 Student Representative Council (SRC) and 2015 School House Captains. The announcement of these student leaders will be made as part of Friday’s chapel service when they will receive a blessing as they commence their positions.

Volunteering at St Mark’s
We are extremely grateful to the many wonderful volunteers who help around St Mark’s in a variety of ways. Your contributions are greatly valued and enrich the experiences of students and staff. To assist in supporting volunteers in their roles it is our requirement that volunteers attend a volunteer information and training session of approximately 45 minutes. The training will be offered on two occasions - Wednesday 18th February at 9:00 am and then on Thursday 26th February at 2:45 pm and be held in the school staff room. Please let Julianne in the school office know if you will attend either of these sessions.

If you attended one of these sessions in either 2013 or 2014 you do not need to attend these sessions in 2015.

St Mark’s 2015 Parent Handbook
I am currently preparing the 2015 parent handbook which will have a broader focus than previous parent handbooks. To ensure it provides relevant and appropriate information, I would like a group of current parents to work with me so that we have a parent’s perspective on the information. If you would like to assist me in this task, please let me know and we can then plan your involvement to suit your circumstances.

The school directory will be published separately to the handbook and will contain contact details of school families who have given permission for this to occur.

James Heyne
Principal
37 Hampden Road, Mt Barker SA 5251 T 8391 0444 E contact@stmarks.sa.edu.au W www.stmarks.sa.edu.au
Assemblies
Every two weeks we hold a whole school assembly on a Wednesday morning hosted by our SRC. It is held on the ‘odd weeks’ of the school term.
Our format is usually the same and includes one of our 14 classes sharing an item, eligible students receiving an achievement award and a report from the SRC on upcoming events or activities. It is a time of whole school celebration and acknowledgment of good things in our school. Anyone is welcome to join us at 9:00am in the hall for any of our assemblies.
This term’s assembly dates and classes sharing are: Wednesday 25th February (Year 5I), Wednesday 11th March (SRC), Wednesday 25th March (Year 3SM), Wednesday 8th April (Year 2L).

Seasons for Growth
Seasons for Growth will commence next week and will be facilitated by Janene Overton (our Religious Pastoral Support Worker), who has received special training in the use of this program. She has run this program for the past 6 years and many students have participated.
If you think your son or daughter would benefit from Seasons for Growth, we would encourage you to talk to him or her about this. It is important that the child chooses to do the course rather than being told to do the course. Should he/she decide to participate, please fill in a form available from the front office and return to the school by Thursday 12th February 2015.
If you would like to know more about the program, please feel free to contact Janene Overton at the school office. (8391 0444)

Lost
A school hat belonging to Jessica S (name is embroidered on the side) is missing. Could parents please check their child’s hat and if found, return it to the Foundation S classroom - thank you.

Mt Barker Lutheran Netball Club AGM/Registration Night - Monday 16th February
Registrations from 6.30pm, AGM at 7.30pm to be held in the St Mark’s Lutheran School Library
Trials (at St Mark’s Lutheran School courts):
Saturday 28th February: U/9: 1.30-2.00pm, U/11: 2-3pm, U/13: 3-4pm
Thursday 5th March: (no under 9’s) U/11: 3.30pm, U13: 4.30pm
Enquiries to 0417 872 548 or mblnc@hotmail.com

Canteen
Canteen orders are to be placed in the ‘lunch order box’ in your child’s classroom on Friday only. Lunch bags (plain brown paper bags) can be purchased in packets from supermarkets. Please use separate bags for hot and cold items with your child’s name and class written on both bags. Remember: if your child is away on canteen day (Tuesday), please email ymitchell@cornerstone.sa.edu.au by 10am to cancel your order. It will then be held over to the following week. If you haven’t emailed by 10am, your order will be forfeited.
School Photos - Wednesday 18th March
Master School Portraits will be at the school on Wednesday 18th March to take school photos.

Envelopes are being sent home with your child today. Please take the time to read all of the relevant information on the envelopes. You can send the money (cash, cheques, money orders) to the school in the envelope supplied however On-Line Ordering, where parents are now able to select their preferred package online, makes it much easier for both the school and parent community. By ordering on-line, parents have the option to download a low resolution image for a smartphone, a high resolution digital download of their child’s image and Family/Sibling packages will also be able to be ordered on-line. Please make your children aware they are having a family photo. (On-Line ordering closes on Monday 23rd March at 11.00am). If you are not ordering family photos on-line, please collect a family photo envelope from the front office. Family photographs are only for school aged students attending St Mark’s.

There is also the option to purchase SRC and House Captains photos for $15.00 each. A notice will be inserted into the newsletter advising when the proofs have arrived and of the ordering procedure if parents wish to order these.

Children must wear the correct summer uniform on photo day.

House Captains will need to bring their sports uniform to change into for the House Captains photo.

Other children who have sports on that day, can also bring in their sports uniform to change into.

Graduation Packs (Year 6): Each child receives a ‘Graduation Pack’ at the graduation service in December. The graduation pack shows a photo of each individual child and is complimentary (no charge). If your child is absent on photo day, it is up to you to make arrangements with Master School Portraits for your child to have their photo taken at their studio in school uniform. This is to ensure that your child will receive their own graduation pack. This is very important.

If parents have any queries, please ring MSP direct on 8391 3951.

Please note: Orders can be placed and paid for after photo day. Please ring MSP to organise this. Do not send in envelopes noting ‘pay later’ as orders are not processed until payment is received.

Separated Families: parents can place multiple orders for children by either placing all the orders in the one envelope or handing in multiple order envelopes (please make enquiries at the front office if you haven’t received a photo envelope). If this is the chosen method, please label the envelope ‘Mum’s Copy’ or ‘Dad’s Copy’ so upon delivery the correct photo order is returned to the correct parent.

Photos will be delivered early Term 2.

Book Club for 2015
For many years now our school has supported Scholastic Book Club. Whilst we are happy with the service that Scholastic provides, we thought that it would be good to see what another book provider may offer. This will enable us to provide a greater variety of literature to the children.
For 2015, we are going to trial Lamont Book Club in Years 3 - 6 and Scholastic Book Club in Foundation - Year 2.
Both clubs have products at very affordable prices and all orders you place help to support the school. All cash orders should be placed in an envelope (or bag) with the order form and handed into the front office. To make a credit card payment with Scholastic, you need to make a phone call and key in payment details. You will then be given a receipt number to write on your order form.
To make a credit card payment with Lamont, you need to go onto their website, You will need to register and then place an order online. Payment is by credit card or Paypal. I believe that when you go through checkout, you will specify the child’s name and school and the order will be delivered in the name of that student. Both of these procedures are explained on the order form.

Lamont prints the due date for the orders on the order form at the back of the brochure.
Scholastic due dates will be published in our school newsletter. Issue 1 is due on 19th February. We hope your children enjoy Book Club in 2015 and that they find lots of fantastic titles to read!

Louise Paterson
Teacher/Librarian

St Mark’s Lutheran Church Children & Youth Ministries
CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES kick off again in 2015!
Here is a snapshot of our ministries:

PLAYGROUP: Thursday mornings during school term 9am-11am; Contact the school
SUNDAY’S COOL: Starting 15th Feb, during 10:30am service. Contact the school
JAFFA (junior youth Year 5-8): commencing Friday 20th February, 6pm - 8pm; CONTACT THE SCHOOL (see flyer included in this newsletter
SENIOR YOUTH (Year 9-11): commencing Friday 13th February, 7pm-9pm; Contact the school
YOUNG ADULTS: various events throughout 2015; Contact the school
For Your Information

- **Adelaide Hills Hockey Club** - Come and Try Day & Registration, on Sunday 22nd February 4-5pm for new players and registration at Cornerstone College synthetic tennis and hockey surface (enter bottom gate) - players wanted: U9’s, U11’s, U14’s, U18’s (boys and girls all teams), hockey sticks will be available to loan on the day. Ring Sally 0428 849 753 or email hillshornets@gmail.com

- **Echunga Football Club** - Junior Fun Nights Friday 13th February and 6th March starting at 6pm. Juniors for all grades are welcome. Subs are free for U15 and grades below for 2015. Phone Vaughan Brooks 0457 537 794

- **Rockit Performing Arts** - Dream It, Believe It, Achieve It, Rock I - babies to adults - ballet, lyrical, cheer, breakdance, showchoir, musical theatre, hip hop, special needs dance and programs for adults. Visit www.rockitperformingarts.com.au, mobile 0438 704 261 based in Mt Barker, Aldgate and Echunga

- **Lions Club of Mt Barker & Mt Barker Men’s Shed** - Project Handywoman (women learning basic DIY skills) - learn basic household repairs and maintenance. Small classes with 1:1 tutor - starting February. Phone Steph on 0423 026 881

- **Mt Barker United Soccer Club** - Registration Day Sunday 15th February 2.30-4.00pm at the Morella Oval, Cornerstone College. More information at www.mbusc.com.au or registrar@mbusc.com.au

- **Hahndorf Football Club** - Family Fun and Registration Day on Sunday 22nd February 2-5pm, come and try sessions, skills sessions with senior players, other fun activities. Online registration at www.hahndorffc.com.au