
Lutheran Church of Australia

SRG 3
Series List

The King of Prussia decreed in 1817 that all his subjects use his new prayer book. It was not a universally popular decree, and numerous groups of dissenters resisted this State enforced religious orthodoxy, especially in Silesia and Prussia.

Religious persecution eventually persuaded Pastor Kavel and 500 Lutherans to emigrate from Brandenburg in 1838 and to initially settle at Klemzig in the new colony of South Australia. In fact, half of German immigrants to 1851 came as religious communities seeking freedom to worship.

Pastors Kavel and Fritzsche ministered to groups in the Adelaide Hills and Barossa Valley, however, the Church was split in 1846 when the two leaders could not agree on points of doctrine and organisation. During the 19th century, the close-knit congregational life, in which the pastor had great authority, was a powerful influence which preserved German language and cultural traditions. Lutheran leaders decided that the Church had to be pronouncedly Lutheran to survive, and the German language was widely used in these predominantly rural parishes up until the 1930s.

Lutherans in South Australia naturally viewed the Church and State separately, ie. that the Church should pursue purely religious objectives and not actively seek to influence legislation. This cultural, political and religious isolation made World War 1 a traumatic experience for many Lutherans, and 49 church schools and the German language press were closed. The Church had been active in education from the beginning; the first primary school was established in 1838 at Klemzig, while the Lutheran seminary opened in 1895 at Point Pass, catering also to secondary students.

By the 1920s, there were two well organised bodies of parishes and synods as a result of the original split, viz. the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the United Evangelical Lutheran Church. They eventually merged to form the Lutheran Church of Australia in 1966. In South Australia, the Church remains fairly strong outside the metropolitan area, in the Adelaide Hills, Murray Mallee, Mid-North, Yorke Peninsula and Barossa Valley. [C. Read April 1996]

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| Papers of Pastor Gothard Daniel Fritzsche (1797-1863), Lutheran pastor 1819-1945. Microfilm only. (reel 1) | <u>1</u> |
| Translation of the papers of Pastor G.D. Fritzsche by Pastor Frederick Hassold, with an introduction and biographical notes by F. Hassold. 1969-1970. 6cm. (2 volumes). | <u>2</u> |
| Papers of A.L.C. Kavel. 1833-1940. Microfilm only. (reel 2) | <u>3</u> |
| Papers of C.W. Schuerman. 1835-1948. Microfilm only. (reels 3 & 4). | <u>4</u> |

Papers relating to C.G. Teichelmann (1850-1938), H.A.E. Meyer (1849-1938), S.G. Klose (1856-1859) and Hahndorf (1838-1936). 1838-1938. Microfilm only. (reel 5).	<u>5</u>
Papers relating to Lobethal, 1854-1963, and Lobethal College. 1867-1955. 1867-1963. Microfilm only. (reel 6)	<u>6</u>
Papers of G.D. Fritsche 1846-1851. Microfilm only. (reel 7).	<u>7</u>
Registers of the United Evangelical Church, Lobethal 1841-1961. Microfilm only. (reel 8). Contains baptisms, burials, marriages and burial registers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lobethal.	<u>8</u>
Records of St. Paul's Church, Gawler River 1856-1896. Microfilm only. (reel 9). Comprises baptismal and confirmation registers with other papers. In both English and German.	<u>9</u>
Exercise books written in the Arunta language by children at the Hermansburg Mission. c.1890. 3em. (5 booklets).	<u>10</u>
Newspaper cuttings and other printed material. c.1910-1965. 0.5cm.	<u>11</u>
Papers relating to early missionaries 1836-1853. Comprises copies of a number of papers written by and to early missionaries in SA, including Christian Gottlob Teichelmarin, Clamor Wilhelm Schurmann, Samule Gottlieb Klose and the Mayer family.	<u>12</u>