



Christus und Seine Kirche laden dich ein! Christ and His Church invite you !

Notice Board	2	May 2013 Divine Service Times	7
Was dem Pastor am Herzen liegt	3	Joy and Sorrow	8
From the Pastor's Heart	4-5	Birthdays	9
April 2013 Divine Service Times	6	Congregational News / Aus der Gemeinde	10
		Financial Matters / Finanzen	11

Planned

Bingo Evening (Burgers)

Friday 26 April 2013 @ 18:30

Jazz Band (Hot Dogs)

Saturday 18 May 2013 @ 19:00

Steak Evening

Friday 21 June 2013 @ 19:00

Potjie Lunch

Saturday 27 July 2013 @ 11:00

Ladies Morning (Tea and Cake)

Saturday 24 August 2013 @ 10:00

Spring Dance (Curry and Rice)

Saturday 14 September 2013 @ 19:00

Movie Evening (Cheese and Wine)

Friday 11 October 2013 @ 19:00

Pancake Stall

Sunday October 2013 @ 10:00

Bazaar

Saturday 2 November 2013 @ 09:30

Carols (Coffee and Cake)

Saturday 21 December 2013 @ 15:00

Regular

Weekly Home Church

19:30

German: Tuesday evenings

English: Wednesday evenings

Monthly Open Door

10:00

Coffee Morning

Last Wednesday of the month

Gebetskreis

Prayer Group

Contact person:

Christel Schädler

083 590 4698

Please contact Christel with your prayer needs

Was dem Pastor am Herzen liegt

Liebe Gemeinde, liebe Freunde!

In diesem Jahr (im Juni) findet die Synode unserer Kapkirche statt und das Hauptthema der Synode wird sein: „Gottes Vision für die Kirche!“ Darüber wird sicherlich viel Hilfreiches und Fundiertes noch auf der Synode gesagt werden und ich bin gespannt, was dabei dann herauskommen wird. Nun geht man ja nicht ohne eigene Vorstellungen zu so einem Treffen und da dachte ich, es wäre gut, wenn ich einige meiner Gedanken dazu schon mal als Gesprächsbeitrag auf den Tisch lege. Damit ist nicht ein fertiges Bild gemeint, sondern eine Sammlung von Gedanken, die mir sehr wichtig sind.

Was ist die Kirche? Der Apostel Paulus schreibt seine Briefe an „die Gemeinde Gottes in Korinth“ (1 Kor 1,2) zum Beispiel, oder „an alle Geliebten und berufenen Heiligen in Rom“ (Röm 1,7). Geheiligt sind die Christen, so habe ich Paulus verstehen gelernt, durch die Taufe. In der Taufe hat Gott jedem einzelnen die Kindschaft zugesagt, den Menschen mit Christus am Kreuz sterben lassen und ihn/sie mit Christus wieder auferweckt zum ewigen Leben. Kirche ist also die Gemeinschaft derer, die zu Gott gehören, weil sie „in Christus“ sind. Erhalten werden sie alle miteinander durch Wort und Sakrament – also durch die Predigt vom gnädigen Wort Gottes und durch eine gemeinsame Mahlfeier, in der wir am Tisch des Herrn wieder und wieder den Zuspruch der Sündenvergebung empfangen, und dadurch gestärkt wieder das Leben anpacken können. Wo so eine „Gemeinde der Heiligen“ versammelt ist und diese Dinge geschehen, da ist Kirche.

Über die Jahrhunderte hat sich die Kirche in eine doch eher behäbige Organisation oder Institution entwickelt oder gar verwandelt, die vieles mitschleppt, was ursprünglich wohl nicht dabei war, als es noch kleine Hausgemeinden der Heiligen waren, in denen Wort und Sakrament gefeiert wurden. Das Rad der Geschichte kann man nicht zurückdrehen, aber man darf fragen, ob wir noch mit dem beschäftigt sind, was Kirche eigentlich ausmacht. Ich hoffe sehr, dass wir auf der Synode dazu kommen, diese Frage zu stellen und dann hellhörig sind für die Antworten, die wir aus Gottes Wort unter der Anleitung des Heiligen Geistes darauf bekommen.

Ihr / Euer Pastor Felix Meylahn

From the Pastor's Heart

Dear Congregation, dear Friends

In view of the Synod of our Cape Church taking place this year (June) with the main theme: "God's Vision for the Church", I have been looking back over the books and materials that I have found to be most helpful in understanding what church is all about. And I thought it would be good to share some of these thoughts with you. They are brief meditations about the story of Jonah, which I found in and adapted from a book by Eugene Peterson, called "Under the Unpredictable Plant. An Exploration in Vocational Holiness."

Jonah 1,1-3

"The Word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: 'Go to the great city of Nineveh; go and denounce it, for I am confronted by its wickedness.' But to escape from the Lord Jonah set out for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for Tarshish. He paid the fare and went on board to travel with it to Tarshish out of the reach of the Lord."

We know the rest of the story - the storm, Jonah being thrown out of the ship, the fish, the prayer, back to Nineveh and Jonah angrily and vindictively doing what God wanted him to do and then quarrelling with God under the unpredictable Plant outside the city.

There are two movements in the Jonah story; the first shows Jonah disobedient; the second shows him obedient. But both times Jonah fails. We do not see a successful Jonah. He does not get it right. I find this rather comforting.

Let us first look at the disobedient Jonah. God calls him to preach in Nineveh, but he heads into the other direction, Tarshish. Tarshish is at the end of the then known world. The journey to Tarshish is caused by the calling of the Lord. Jonah hears God's call and he goes, an act of obedience - kind of. But he chooses the destination: not Nineveh but Tarshish. I see this to be kind of religiously pious escapism, in which I can see myself clearly. Yes, I am going to be a pastor, God has called me, but not in Nineveh, for heaven's sake. Let's try Tarshish. You see, in Tarshish we can have a religious career without having to deal with God. Tarshish is "out of the reach of the Lord."(V3).

Nineveh, on the other hand, is a place of sin and trouble, not much glorious religion there, just ordinary, sinful people. Nineveh is our congregations, each of them made up of sinners, and as if that weren't bad enough, they all have sinners for pastors too. Denial of this incapacitates us for our real work; avoidance of this separates us from our vocation and we climb aboard the ship that is to take us to Tarshish, that glitzy, enthusiastic and miraculously growing congregation, that we dream up in order to avoid the modest, daily work of caring for and speaking grace to a bunch of sinners on behalf of God.

But in spite of what the propagandists for the Tarshish destination say, every time we open a church door and take a careful, scrutinizing look inside, we find them there again - sinners. And Christ in their midst. Christ in the preaching, Christ in the sacraments, but inconveniently and embarrassingly mixed into this congregation of sinners. The temptation to run away from that is always present.

From the Pastor's Heart

Let us now look at the second movement in the Jonah story. Jonah obediently walking across the hot desert to Nineveh. We expect this obedience to be crowned with success, but it is not. Jonah obedient turns out to be as much in violation of the Word of God as Jonah disobedient. This is a much neglected detail of the story. Jonah obedient is angry and vindictive, he hates Nineveh, despises Nineveh, it is a most contemptible place and he has no love for it. He obeys to the letter the command of God, but he betrays the spirit of God with his anger. You see, he has become a thoroughgoing professional. He cares nothing for the congregation but only for the literal and dominating authority of his own preaching. He has preached destruction in forty days, and, by God, destruction it had better be.

I find this a most uncomfortable and accusing detail of the story. It is to me even more autobiographical than the first movement was. More often than not I am obedient to my call. I do my work. I am a minister of word and sacrament, I visit the sick and comfort the grieving, I show up in church on time to celebrate Sunday worship and do many more things in obedience to God's call. But it is in our virtuous behaviour that we are liable to the gravest sins. It is in this context of being very responsible, being obedient to the letter, that we most easily substitute our will for God's will, because it is so easy to suppose that they are identical. It is in the course of being a good pastor that we have the most chance of developing pastoral "hybris" - pride, arrogance and an insensitivity to the people the Jonah story describes as "not knowing their right hand from their left" (4,11).

Finally, lest we despair completely, there is a happy ending to this story. In both movements of the story, the disobedience and the obedience, God uses Jonah to save people.

In the disobedience of Jonah the sailors on the ship prayed to the Lord and entered into a life of faith: "Then the men feared the LORD greatly and they offered sacrifice to the LORD and made vows." (1,16)

And in the angry obedience of Jonah the Ninevites were all saved. "When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God repented about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it."(3,10)

We do not get the picture of the kind of people we want to be in the Jonah story, but only an accurate description of the kind of people we in fact are. Putting the mirror in front of us and showing us our double failure would be a severe and unbearable burden if it were not for this other dimension - that God works his purposes through who we actually are, our rash disobedience and our heartless obedience, graciously using our lives as he finds us to do his work.

It is my prayer for our church that we would together become aware of how God is already and will be leading the Church according to God's vision for it and not according to ours and may God grant that we will gratefully acknowledge his leading and vision and follow him obediently.

Your pastor, Felix Meylahn

Losung für April 2013






Lk 20,38

Wie ihr nun den Herrn Christus Jesus angenommen habt, so lebt auch in ihm und seid in ihm verwurzelt und gegründet und fest im Glauben, wie ihr gelehrt worden seid, und seid reichlich dankbar.

Watchword for April 2013

Luke 20.38

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

<p>07.04.2013</p> 	<p>Quasimodogeniti: 1. Sonntag nach Ostern</p>	<p>Gottesdienst 09:30</p>	<p>Markus 16,9–14 (15-20)</p>
<p>14.04.2013</p> 	<p>Misericordias Domini: Second Sunday after Easter</p>	<p>Divine Service Holy Communion 09:30</p>	<p>John 21.15-19</p>
<p>21.04.2013</p>  	<p>Jubilate: Third Sunday after Easter Jubilate: 3. Sonntag nach Ostern</p>	<p>Divine Service 09:00 10:15 Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl</p>	<p>Genesis 1.1-4a. 26-31 2.1-4a 1. Mose 1,1-4a. 26-31a 2,1-4a</p>
<p>28.04.2013</p> 	<p>Cantata: Fourth Sunday after Easter</p>	<p>Family Service Holy Communion 09:30</p>	<p>Isaiah 12.1-6</p>

Losung für Mai 2013





Spr 31,8

Öffne deinen Mund für den Stummen, für das Recht aller Schwachen! Spr 31,8

Watchword for May 2013

Proverbs 31,8

Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute.

<p>05.05.2013</p> 	<p>Rogate: 5. Sonntag nach Ostern</p>	<p>Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl 09:30</p>	<p>Matthäus 6, 7-13</p>
<p>12.05.2013</p> 	<p>Exaudi: Sunday after Ascension</p>	<p>Divine Service Holy Communion 09:30</p>	<p>John 14.15-19</p>
<p>19.05.2013</p>  	<p>Pentecost: Whitsunday Pfingstsonntag: Tag der Ausgießung des Heiligen Geistes</p>	<p>Divine Service 09:00 10.15 Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl</p>	<p>Numbers 11.11-12 14-17 24-25 4. Mose 11,11-12. 14-17.24-25</p>
<p>26.05.2013</p> 	<p>Trinity Sunday</p>	<p>Family Service Holy Communion 09:30</p>	<p>Numbers 6.22-27</p>

We welcome as members of our congregation: Carol Buschhold, Audrey and Lucas Letsholonyane and their daughter, Rea.

May they all find a supportive spiritual home in our community.

On the 1st March 2013 the Lord over Life and Death called from among us our brother in Christ, Bernard Tessendorf to eternal life.

We pray that God will comfort all who mourn his death with the glad tidings of the resurrection.

The new Confirmands, namely Rea Letsholonyane, Victoria Horni and Ulrich Koch have already started their classes.

We ask the congregation to pray for these young members as they journey together learning and understanding more about the Word and our Lutheran tradition and for Felix Meylahn as he leads them.

We wish all mothers a very happy day as we celebrate and give thanks for all mothers on "Mother's Day" - Sunday 12 May.

April 2013

04-Apr	Sigi Sauer
05-Apr	Gunnar Gädke
10-Apr	Liz Tessendorf
16-Apr	Hans Rohwer
18-Apr	Brian Köpke
19-Apr	Wayne Böttcher
23-Apr	Neil Haschick
26-Apr	Peter Koch
30-Apr	Felix Meylahn

May 2013

01-May	Erica Kietzmann
03-May	Liane Krieg
07-May	Sharon Bürger
15-May	Geoff Andrews
22-May	Marion Gädke
23-May	Sonja Savini
30-May	Erwin Gehring
30-May	Hildegard Dreier

Easter Market Report Back

A big thank you to everyone for all the help and assistance in making this event happen!

To all the Stall Conveners, Cake bakers, Helpers, Raffle ticket sellers, Floats/Cash handlings, The beautiful background Music and the Generous Donations received, (without this we would not have achieved a successful Easter Market) - you are much appreciated.

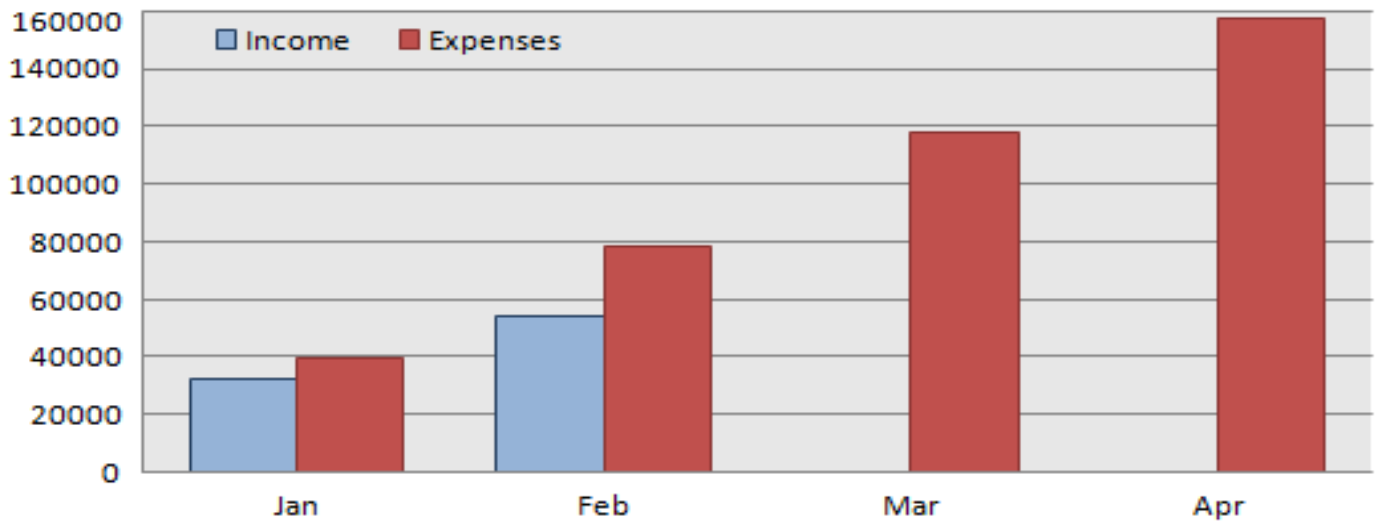
Significant contribution to the funds raised this year was the success of the Raffle. Well done to all involved - donations of goodies to make up the raffle prizes and the ticket sales/purchases.

Congratulations to Liz Tessendorf who won the first prize and Mathias Schmidt who won the second prize in the Raffle.

Enjoy the treats!

Working together as a team and with the support of the congregation and the faithful supporters from outside of our community, we managed to raise R9 841,75.

Financial Matters



Our cumulative deficit as at the end of February 2013 is R23 500.
Last year this time the deficit was only R16 000.

Compared to February 2012:

- * Income has dropped by 3,6%, and
- * Expenses have increased by 7,6%.

Please support our fundraising events during the year in order to make up for the projected shortfall which is expected for the year.

Payments

Contributions can be made either at the church, by means of a deposit into the church's bank account or via electronic fund transfer (EFT). Please do not forget to provide your details under the reference section.

Bank: First National Bank, Walmer Branch
Branch Code: 211217
Account Name: Lutheran Church Springfield
Account Number: 534 200 32476

Church Committee 2013

Rev Felix Meylahn	33 Luke Avenue, P.O. Box 5039 pastor@lutheran-pe.org 041-367 1986 H	Springfield PE (Pfarrhaus/Manse) Walmer PE 6065 082 579 6381
Geoff Andrews (Committee Chairman)	45 Kent Road, chairman@lutheran-pe.org 041-484 1861 H 083 287 4199	North End PE 6001 041-365 1835 W 041-364 1676 FAX
Gerhard Fröhlich (Treasurer)	63 Boundary Rd, treasurer@lutheran-pe.org 041-360 3317 H	Morningside 6025
Reinhard Walle (Membership Information)	4 May Way membership@lutheran-pe.org 041-360 6769 H	Sunridge Park 6045 079 490 0104
Anthea Burger	31 Erasmus Drive, warden1@lutheran-pe.org 041-583 5423 H	Summerstrand 6001 083 709 7868
Henry Newman	81 Villiers Road, warden2@lutheran-pe.org 041-581 3907 H	Walmer PE 6070 078 703 7003
Lionel Sonnenberger	18 Finch Street, warden4@lutheran-pe.org 041-365 6249 H	Cotswold 6045 082 770 9544
Gerry West	17 Wykenham Crossing warden5@lutheran-pe.org 041-3641889	Cape Road 6000 071 806 9277

Records Update:



If you are aware of any discrepancies, e.g. inaccuracies in spelling of names, incorrect address details, tel. number, or even not receiving newsletters etc. please write down the corrected information and forward to Pastor Meylahn or one of the church wardens.