

LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH Friedenskirche

www.lutheran-pe.org

Oct/Nov 2013 Lutheran Church Springfield Port Elizabeth - Newsletter No. 2013.5



St John's Church Organ - King Williams Town

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

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Planned

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Movie Evening (Cheese and Wine)

Friday 11 October 2013 @ 19:00

Pancake Stall

Sunday 27 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 11:00

Coffee Morning Last Wednesday of the month

Maintenance Work Day

Sat 12 October 2013 **09:00**

Gebetskreis



Prayer Group

Contact person:

Christel Schädler

083 590 4698

Please contact Christel with your prayer needs.

Lutheran Church Heritage Trail Report

In the Border region of the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa some of the apartheid era policies disadvantaged more than only the obvious. Many Lutheran Churches established by the German Settlers circa 1856 were expropriated by the government of the day to make way for the Ciskei homeland.

Recently members of the Lutheran Church (Friedenskirche), Springfield in Port Elizabeth led by Pastor Emeritus Arthur Becker, embarked on a tour of the area to trace their roots. The group was joined in King Williams Town by members from a number of congregations in the Border area resulting in a convoy of vehicles reaching the first site in *Keiskammahoek* at midday on Friday 9 August 2013. Arthur Becker provided very well researched narrative on the old building, pictured below that is still used as a place of worship by a poor Pentecostal congregation judging by the condition of the property. The group tested the acoustics with an a cappella rendition of "Nun Danket Alle Gott". The desecrated and forgotten cemetery brought back images of tired and worn out ancestors in their final resting place. The next stop back on the road to KWT was at the forgotten *Mgqesha* Lutheran Church and cemetery no longer used and sadly decayed.

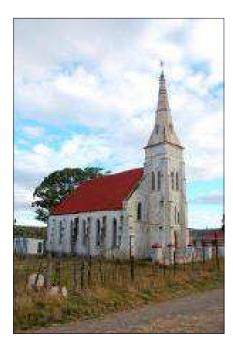




Next was the St John's KWT Church and another forgotten Lutheran Church in Buffalo Road called the "Kantinen" Church (1880-1896) that apparently resulted because of strict rules around drinking of alcohol. Then on to a monument to the German Settlers also in KWT, pictured above, right.

The next stop was the *Braunschweig* Church, pictured overleaf, outside KWT that was expropriated for a dam site that never happened. This congregation was transplanted in *Komgha* in 1984 where the group was warmly and graciously hosted by members of that St Peter's congregation led by Rudolph, Enid and Pearl Tessendorf on the Saturday night.

Lutheran Church Heritage Trail Report



Braunschweig Church

An early morning service conducted at St Peter's Church by Pastor HP von Fintel was enjoyed the next day.

Back to Friday the PE group headed for *Stutterheim* where they were warmly hosted, in 4° C weather. The next morning (1° C) after a hot breakfast, we left the farms with the news that 8 lambs had been born the previous night to the flocks of Ronald & Fay Burger.

The Church in Stutterheim built in 1891 has survived expropriation and urbanisation. A nostalgic mood coloured Arthur Becker's narrative as he was Pastor in Stutterheim for 18 years and was home to his children when growing up.

Also in Stutterheim the Bethel Church with the adjacent buildings still in reasonable condition created images of settlers gathering 150 years ago after having travelled, mostly by foot from as far as Keiskammahoek about 60 km away. The memorial stone at the military post of Olsen was one of many places occupied by the German Legion to protect the settlers.



Bethel Mission Church

The remains of the settlements of *Marienthal* and *Wiesbaden* where for example Chris Burger's grandmother was born are now occupied by black people with little or no prospects 60 years on. Every third or so of these settlements took root and micro economies developed like Frankfort where there was a school with a hostel, hotel and retail stores.

The St Crucis Church grew for 100 years before it's fate was sealed with notice of expropriation to form the ill-fated Ciskei . It was transplanted in Beacon Bay with services commencing in the local library until sufficient prospects led to the first phase of the Church being built in 1982.

Berlin was the next Church visited where the congregation was recently dissolved and the building is tenanted by a pre-school run by Brenda Lentz's sister. The settlement of Potsdam is now in a forgotten part of the sprawling *Mdanstane* outside East London.

Lutheran Church Heritage Trail Report

The site of the Church demolished in 1967, is now not clear but is surrounded by hundreds of informal shacks - a sad testament to "development". That congregation (St John's) is only just holding it's own in a nearby suburb now more industrial, called Dawn.



St Paul's - Macleantown

Then it was on to *Macleantown* "home" to many of our members. The original Church like KWT, Stutterheim and East London is still a place of Lutheran worship to this day. Thereafter it was on to St Peter's in *Komgha*, mentioned earlier for a good nights' rest.

After the early service the next morning we visited the Luther Church in *Brakfontein* heavily protected behind barbed wire and steel plates over the windows,

a requirement after arson reduced all but the bell tower to ashes and numerous burglaries because of it's proximity to a large informal settlement in this popular agricultural region 30 km outside East London.

The original congregation of St Andrew's in Park Avenue, East London still stands proud amongst various other denominations' churches in the CBD.

A monument to the German Settlers on the East London beachfront overlooking the harbor, erected in 1958 for the centenary was the last port of call in town.



St Andrew's East London

On the coastal road back to Port Elizabeth we visited the small derelict "Bell" (Bodiam) church building and cemetery outside Hamburg another original settlement.





St Peter's - Komgha

Was dem Pastor am Herzen liegt

Liebe Gemeinde, liebe Freunde!

Worum geht es eigentlich, wenn man Pastor sein will? Diese Frage stell ich mir immer wieder, auch wenn ich es jetzt schon viele Jahre gemacht habe, diese Aufgabe, Mitarbeiter Gottes zu sein. Je länger ich dabei bin, desto mehr wird mir klar, wie leicht wir Pastoren uns doch überschätzen und regelrechte Wichtigtuer werden. Dann erlebe ich es wieder und wieder als eine Gnade, wenn mir klar wird: eigentlich bist du einfach nur dabei, wenn Gott arbeitet. Ja, ich darf mit meiner Arbeit dabei sein bei dem, was Gott tut mit Wort und Sakrament. Ich darf dabei sein bei dem, was Jesus tut im Leben der Menschen, die mir in der Gemeinde und drum herum anvertraut sind.

Was ist das denn für eine Arbeit, die Gott durch Jesus tut? Die Menschen mit Gott wieder zusammenzubringen und sie bei Gott zu halten, in Gottes Schutz und Segen. Und das tut Gott durch sein Wort. Wenn ich dieses Wort nun weitersage, wenn ich das Sakrament austeile, so bin ich einfach nur dabei, bei dem, was Gott tut. Hier wird mir das Maß meiner Verantwortung klar: Ich bin voll und ganz gefordert (ich muss das, was ich tue, mit aller Kraft tun, so gut ich es eben kann) und darf dennoch Ihm alles überlassen.

Welch eine schöne Berufung haben wir doch als Pastoren und Prediger! Und wenn wir die lutherische Tauflehre ernst nehmen, dann gilt das auch für alle Getauften. Durch die Taufe hat Gott jeden und jede dazu gerufen, mitzuarbeiten, mit dabei zu sein, wo durch Wort und Sakrament, durch tröstliches Zusprechen und durch fröhliches Miteinander-essen-undtrinken, den Menschen erfahrbar wird, dass Gott gnädig und barmherzig ist. Kommt doch alle, macht mit! Seid dabei, wenn Gott arbeitet!

Felix Meylahn

From the Pastor's Heart

Dear Congregation and Friends!

What is the Task of the Church? Since the Synod of our Church met in June 2013 I have been looking at a great variety of "task-descriptions" of the Church. Some of you will remember that we had a guest speaker from the USA, Pastor Jerry Burce, who spoke about God's Vision for the Church – and, being a Lutheran Theologian, he reminded us that first and foremost all our deliberations about such things must start with what God actually sees when God looks at us and our world. He then spoke of the terrifying vision, where God sees how desperately lost we really are, deserving nothing but death. This vision of God comes to expression through the Law. Once this had been made clear, Jerry also spoke about God's gracious vision, redemptive in its purpose and action, which comes to expression through the Gospel.

I want to recommend that every one who wants to get the full impact of this Lutheran way of looking at things gets a copy of Pastor Burce's paper and read it thoroughly. We have such a lack of good Lutheran theology being passed around in our country, that this is a unique opportunity for us to get back to the basics of what our church is all about. But now back to my initial question: What is the Task of the Church?

This question is often answered with a mostly corporate-management agenda in mind, or worse still, from a purely financial concerns point of view. How can we get this church, our congregation, or should I say, our franchise, to grow and flourish so that the survival of this congregation in the religious market and my salary as pastor are guaranteed. From this point of departure, we will of course think mainly about how to make our organisation more attractive to those people whom we have identified as our target market – we would be concerned about marketing our product as best we can, or, and here is the crux of the matter, changing our "product" to be more attractive, user friendly, or whatever other criteria we would come up with to make the whole thing work.

From the Pastor's Heart (cont.)

In direct opposition to any such "church growth concepts" I would insist that the Task of the Church is to help people see themselves, each other and the world through God's eyes - referring back to Pastor Jerry Burce's paper at synod, we are to guide people to hear, see and experience that God is looking at them with this dual vision - the terrifying one that exposes us for what we really are (the traditional word for that is "sinners") and the graceful, saving, redeeming vision, that tells us and let's us experience through Word and Sacrament, that God has graciously decided to see Jesus in us, who identified himself with us on the cross and rose again from death to give us his Life (the traditional word for that is "saints"). So, let's do everything we can, to help people see themselves through God's eyes, as sinners and saints! Once we have this task straight, the "other things" will fall into place easily, because our members are creative, hard working and committed people, and we pastors should not get into their way too much, when they are on a roll to get the good news out there into their daily lives - our task is merely to remind them regularly, that God has this dual vision of them and that they are saved sinners one and all. This is of course true for pastors as well! Hallelujah!

Felix Meylahn

Predigen tut weh

Wenn ich das Evangelium, wenn ich Ihn predigen will, dann kann das nur so geschehen, dass der Fleischgewordene im Heiligen Geist gegen mein Fleisch den Krieg gewonnen, mich selbst überwunden, mich sich versklavt hat. Nur in diesem Überwunden-Sein kann mein Wort sein Wort sein. Nur als Gestorbener kann ich predigen. Nur als ein Vom-Wort-Gottes-Gepackter kann ich ein packendes Wort sagen. Wo Gott einen zum Menschenfischer macht, da kann dieser Mensch nicht nur das Netz oder die Angel auswerfen, da ist dieser Mensch selbst ein Wurm, zappelnd über die Angel gespannt. So lässt Bernanos den Pfarrer von Torcy sagen: "Wenn der Herr zufällig ein Wort aus mir herauszieht, das den Seelen nützt, so spüre ich es daran, dass es mir weh tut." Bei Gottfried Benn stieß ich auf eine Variation eines Talmudspruches: "Wir Juden sind wie eine Olive, wir geben unser Bestes, wenn wir zermalmt werden." Das gilt auch für uns Prediger. Wenn wir in der Presse Gottes uns zermalmen lassen, dann fließt das Öl. Rudolf Bohren (1953)

Possible Call to Stellenbosch

Pastor Felix Meylahn has been approached by the extended church committee of the Stellenbosch Congregation with the question, whether he would be prepared to take up the position of pastor in that congregation from 2015. Pastor Meylahn has agreed to visit Stellenbosch on the weekend of the 4-6 October 2013 to present himself to the congregation in various meetings and by celebrating a divine service with them on Sunday, so that the special general meeting to be held on the 6 October 2013 after the divine service can take a decision whether they want to call pastor Meylahn or not. Once this decision has taken place our church committee will inform the congregation about the various options and steps that we will have to take if pastor Meylahn is called to Stellenbosch.

The Church Committee.

Equip – In But Not Of

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (NT) is offering a retreat for all who want to know more about -

Why Jesus came to this world
How we are called by him
What it means to grow as Christian
Being equipped to serve Christ in this Word.

The Retreat is planned for the 27th December 2013 to 1st of January 2014 and is to take place in the beautiful Lutheran School in Hermannsburg KZN.

Registrations need to be sent in by the 30 November 2013. (The costs or the whole retreat, including all meals and accommodation are R 950.00)

Registration forms and more information available from Pastor Meylahn. The CCE has agreed to give financial assistance for people who would like to attend this retreat.

Gottesdienste October 2013 Divine Service

Losung für Oktober 2013

Watchword for October 2013

Hebräer 13,16
Vergesst nicht Gutes zu

Vergesst nicht, Gutes zu tun und mit anderen zu teilen; denn an solchen Opfern hat Gott Gefallen

Hebrews13.16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

06.10.2013	19. Sonntag nach Trinitatis	Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl 09:30	Johannes 5,1–16
13.10.2013	20th Sunday after Trinity	Divine Service Holy Communion 09:30	Mark 2.23–28
20.10.2013	Festival of Harvest	Divine Service 09:00	Matthew 6.13-29
3	Erntedankfest	10:15 Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl	Matthäus 6,13-29
27.10.2013	22nd Sunday after Trinity	Family Service Holy Communion 09:30	Micah 6.6–8

Gottesdienste November 2013 Divine Services

Losung für November 2013

Watchword for November 2013

Lukas 17,21 Siehe, das Reich Gottes ist mitten unter euch. Luke 17,21 Behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.

03.11.2013	Gedenktag der Reformation	Gottesdienst 09:30	Jesaja 62, 6-7. 10-12
10.11.2013	3rd last Sunday of the Church Year	Divine Service Holy Communion 09:30	Luke 18.1–8
17.11.2013	2nd last Sunday of the Church Year Vorletzter Sonntag Im Kirchenjahr	Divine Service 09:00 10.15 Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl	Jeremiah 8.4–7 Jeremia 8,4–7
24.11.2013	Last Sunday of the Church Year	Family Service Holy Communion 09:30	Mark 13.31–27

Quotable Quotes

Don't get into God's way

"It is possible to be so active in the service of Christ as to forget to love him.

Many a man preaches Christ but gets in front of him by the multiplicity of his own works.

It will be your ruin if you do! Christ can do without your works; what he wants is you. Yet if he really has you he will have all your works."

Peter Taylor Forsyth.

Success?

"We must make sure that we do not decide that we shall succeed.

If we decide to succeed then we may succeed without succeeding in God's way.

But if we go on from day to day seeking to do his will, then we shall be prepared to receive success from him if he wills it; and if he does not, then humbly to say - It is God's decision that David shall not build the temple, but he will raise up Solomon."

W.A. Visser't Hooft.

A Trip Down Memory Lane - Heritage Tour

This trip had been discussed over a couple of months ago and subsequently organised by the Lutheran Church of Port Elizabeth with an extended invitation to all sister congregations. We were privileged to have Pastor Arthur Becker as our tour leader.

So on Friday 9th August we met our fellow travellers in a windy and cold King Williams Town. Some we were acquainted with, others not – but that soon changed – as we had the privilege of being part of a dynamic – warm – embracing group of people, who come together for this heritage tour. What made this trip so special was that many of the participants either grew up in these areas, or attended schools or confirmation classes, and could therefore share their stories and give others an insight into how life/ family/ growing up and church played a part in their lives.

The first stop was *Keiskammahoek* where we were fortunate to find one of the three churches open. The churches in *Keiskammahoek* are still in reasonable condition. From there we went to the cemetery - which is overgrown but still fairly accessible. Most of the cemeteries have been vandalised, but although this is very sad and unnecessary, it still meant a lot to us, as many were able to find some graves belonging to our forefathers. Which was the case at all the cemeteries we visited, rather humbling – but what a privilege.

Emqesha was the next stop – Sad situation – church in poor condition and graves totally overgrown and collapsing.

After a quick bite to eat at the Wimpy in KWT – off we went to St John's King Williams Town – listened to some organ music and sang a hymn or two. On the way out of KWT, we stop at the memorial and drove on towards Braunschweig. Once again, the history of this church and manse was shared and off to the cemetery we went. Sleepover @ Stutterheim for those who could not return to their homes close by.

Saturday, we once again joined the group in Stutterheim, toured thru St Paul's Stutterheim, listened to organ music and sang a hymn or two – thenproceeded to the *Bethel* Mission Station , again spontaneous hymns were sang .

Next stop was *Frankfurt* – as we travelling on the gravel roads and thru the beautiful country side – lots a childhood stories were told – and most

A Trip Down Memory Lane - Heritage Tour

of them – "Do you remember – so and so ..." - Bitter sweet moments. The church in Frankfurt was open and still reasonably intact. The cemetery once we climbed over and under fences still in a fair state.

Berlin was our next stop – church was opened and we know that it is being used by our Black sister congregation, which holds 3 services per month in this building – truly a blessing.

Macleantown was our next church of call- where we were welcomed with tea and cake – from there our paths separated – some returned home and other travelled to *Komga* for a sleepover.

Sunday morning 8.30 am service at St Peters Komga – what an experience – Divine Service enjoyed by all - followed by tea and cake. Luther Brakfontein was the next stop – this church was also opened for us, and the cemetery visited. From Brakfontein to St Crucis Beacon Bay – modern church but still retains a lot of history in the hall.

St Andrews was the last church we visited in East London - here the stain glass windows were the attraction, but topping that was the sound of our organ being played by Christian Becker at full volume.

From there we proceeded to the German Monument on the Esplanade, which was fitting as this is where it all started – the arrivals of our forefathers all those years ago – carving out a life for their families and generations that followed and to this day.

Lunch at the Wimpy in Green Fields was the end to our heritage tour.

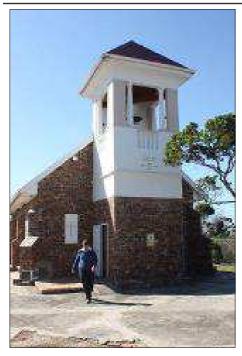
This tour to us and we are sure to many was bittersweet, sad, shocked at the state of some cemeteries and church buildings, but yet the dynamics of the chore team of memory lane seekers – as on every day we had new participants joining and some leaving, was inspiring, uplifting, awe at our forefather's stamina and hope that with GOD all is and will be possible.

We thank everyone who played at part, however great or small in taking us down this Memory Lane.

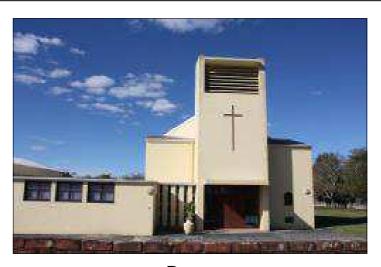
Please do not attempt to visit these sites on your own, go in numbers; however there are plans in place for another tour like this, to take place in the first half of 2014. See you then!

Friederike Kieck and Bettina du Busson (East London=

A Trip Down Memory Lane - Heritage Tour



Brakfontein Church



Dawn



Kantinen Kirche



St Mathew's—Berlin



St Crucis—Beacon Bay



Mngqesha



Bell (Bodiam)

We continue to pray for the sick in our congregation, namely Ingrid Haschick and Joan Cairncross. May they be comforted by the knowledge of our Lord's mercy and grace.



Hello to all the Children! Especially the little ones!! You are invited to come and experience God's Grace and Love!

Every second Sunday of the month, during the sermon, we will have a special children's service in the youth room, in which you will hear the wonderful story of God's Love for you and experience God's Grace in songs and prayers. Tell your parents to make a special effort to bring you to church – for they too will experience God's Grace here! That's what church is all about!

Anthea Burger and Barbara Meylahn



We have started with a new group of Confirmands – some of whom we have already introduced to you – more have joined us and if you would still like to come along, you're welcome to do that.

Our meetings in the second half of the year will continue as follows:

- 13 October 2013 in a session that follows on the Divine Service.
- 26 October 2013 at 3 5 pm in the Manse.
- 16 November 2013 at 3 5 pm in the Manse.

Please bring a flip-file, a Bible and some A4 note-paper.

Contact Felix Meylahn 0825796381

October 2013

01-Oct	Gunter Fröhlich
08-Oct	Willie Lokotsch
11-Oct	Alie Coetzer
17-Oct	Maxi Jachens
19-Oct	Ulrich Koch
20-Oct	Barbara Meylahn
26-Oct	Benedikt Meylahn
30-Oct	Patrick Septoe

November 2013

03-Nov	Brighid Sonnenberger
04-Nov	Holly Eichhoff
05-Nov	Rainald Strauss
07-Nov	Dittmar Eichhoff
08-Nov	Erica Thompson
10-Nov	Janusz Meylahn
10-Nov	Merle Cairncross
17-Nov	Mandy Strauss
21-Nov	Felicity van Rensburg
28-Nov	Albert Rohrmoser
28-Nov	Karin Frost

Congregational News / Aus der Gemeinde

Annual Christmas Bazaar

2 November 2013 @ 09:30

In a few weeks time we will again join forces to make a success of our annual Christmas Bazaar. This day is both a fun-filled event as well as our main fundraiser for the year.

Raffle lists have been sent to members and friends and there is already a beehive of activity in many homes, where hand-crafted articles are made, Christmas "Stollen" and "Lebkuchen" are baked and numerous preparations for the 2nd of November are underway. We would like to invite everyone to join us on our festival day and contribute in any way possible to the success of this event.

PS Please come prepared to participate in our Auction, during which a selection of interesting articles will once again come under the hammer of experienced Auctioneer, Neil Mc Laggan.

Ladies' Tea

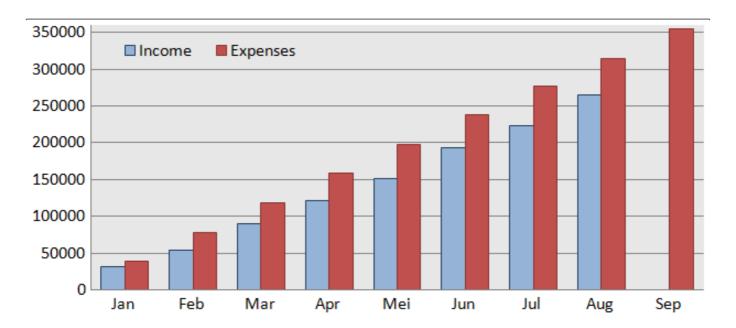
I want to thank EVERYONE who contributed to this very successful event. It was fascinating to see what Susan Viljoen could do with a few plants, flowers or even apples to put together an arrangement. The cakes were divine and I loved all the beautiful table decorations, not to mention all the wedding dresses and photo albums. This is an event that will become a regular in our congregation.

Barbara.

Spring Dance

Wow, I have never seen our hall change into an Hawaiian set-up. Erica Thompson and family spent the whole day decorating it so amazingly. The music was the best ever, as well as the fun lighting equipment that Reinhard and Richard hired to make the effect even better. Thanks to all the donators of delicious curry, rice and salad, especially to Carol who arranged it. Unfortunately, we only had 25 people attend and have decided not to do a dance again unless members come up and ask for it.

Barbara



Our cumulative deficit is currently R 50 000. Last year this time our deficit was R22 000.

Compared to August 2012:

- ▶ Income has dropped by 4.5%, and
- ► Expenses have increased by 5.1%.

A special appeal: in order to cover the projected shortfall, we ask congregation members (who are financially able to), to contribute an extra R 30 per month.

Payments

Contributions can be made directly 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, Springfield PE (Pfarrhaus/Manse) P.O. Box 5039 Walmer PF 6065 pastor@lutheran-pe.org 041-367 1986 H 082 579 6381 **Geoff Andrews** 45 Kent Road. North End PE 6001 (Committee Chairman) chairman@lutheran-pe.org 041-484 1861 H 041-365 1835 W 041-364 1676 FAX 083 287 4199 Gerhard Fröhlich 63 Boundary Rd, Morningside 6025 treasurer@lutheran-pe.org (Treasurer) 041-360 3317 H **Reinhard Walle** 4 May Way Sunridge Park 6045 (Membership Information) membership@lutheran-pe.org 041-360 6769 H 079 490 0104 **Anthea Burger** 31 Erasmus Drive, Summerstrand 6001 warden1@lutheran-pe.org 041-583 5423 H 083 709 7868 **Carol Buschhold** Lorraine PE 6070 248 Circular Drive. warden3@lutheran-pe.org 041-368 5976 H 076 134 3333 **Henry Newman** 81 Villiers Road. Walmer PE 6070 warden2@lutheran-pe.org 041-581 3907 H 078 703 7003 **Lionel Sonnenberger** 18 Finch Street, Cotswold 6045 warden4@lutheran-pe.org 041-365 6249 H 082 770 9544 **Gerry West** 17 Wykenham Crossing Cape Road 6000 warden5@lutheran-pe.org

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 <u>write</u> down the corrected information and forward to Pastor Meylahn or one of the church wardens.

071 806 9277

041-3641889