



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

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Planned

Farewell to the Meylahn Family

Sunday 21 December 2014

11:00 Divine Service
12:30 "bring and share" lunch
14:00 carols, music & cake



AGM

Gemeindeversammlung

Sunday 25 January 2015
After the Divine Service

Regular

Weekly Home Church **19:30**

Wednesday evenings
(Combined: English and
German)

Monthly Open Door **11:00**

Coffee Morning
Last Wednesday of the
month

Gebetskreis/ Prayer Group



Contact person:
Christel Schädler

083 590 4698

Please contact Christel with
your prayer needs.

Children's Services 2014

All children are invited to our Children's Services which will be held during the following Divine Services :

1st Sunday of every month: German @ 09:30

2nd Sunday of every month: English @ 09:30

3rd Sunday of every month: English @ 09:00; German @ 10:15

This year Elizabeth Köpke and Kerilee Thompson will lead the English Children's Services and Barbara Meylahn will lead the German Children's Services.

A big thank you to these ladies. We appreciate you!

Family Service geared towards the Youth, Young Adults and Students in our congregation are held **on the last Sunday of every month**. (All children are invited to stay in the Sanctuary during the sermon on this Sunday.)

Contact numbers are :

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------|---------|---------------|
| Elizabeth | 083 232 6624 | Kerilee | 041 371 1793; |
| Barbara | 082 221 0104 | Anthea | 083 709 7868 |

**Bringing children to church may not always be easy,
but as members of the family they are needed by all
of us to complete the circle at God's table.**

**The Body of Christ assembled is incomplete in their
absence.**

Congregation News

Meylahn Family Farewell Sunday 21 December 2014

We extend an invitation to all congregation members and congregation friends — please come and join us in wishing Felix & Barbara and their children a fond farewell.

A combined (English and German) divine service will be held on Sunday 21 December 2014 @ 11h00.

Following this service we will meet in the hall for a “bring and share” lunch @ 12h30.

Afterwards we will sing some carols, enjoy a musical number by the talented Meylahn family and end the afternoon with coffee and cake @ 14h00.

Advert placed on Church Net

HOUSE TO RENT - 4 bedrooms + study + 2 bathrooms + outside room with toilet and single garage, Springfield . Available from January 2015 - December 2015. Rental @ R7000.00pm incl Water & Lights allowance. Contact Felix 041 367 1986

Congregation News

Sunday Divine Services 2015

The church committee wants to assure all congregation members that Sunday Divine Services will continue uninterrupted next year and will follow the usual rhythm as in the past.

Pastor Arthur Becker (retired Lutheran minister from the Western Cape) will travel from Cape Town each month to lead 2 Sunday services (most likely the 3rd and 4th Sunday of each month). He will spend the week in Port Elizabeth and will be available to visit congregation members should they wish.

Bishop Gilbert Filter, Pastor Nils Rohwer (retired Lutheran bishop from the Western Cape) and Pastor Helga Warnke (George congregation) have also indicated their willingness to assist with services in our congregation.

We also have very capable lay preachers in our midst and thank them in advance for their ministry in our congregation.

We hope to be able to finalise the calling of a new pastor by mid 2015.

Until then, we have this opportunity to continue to be faithful disciples as we have been called in our baptism.

**Let us call people together to tell them
the Story of God's faithfulness
in such a way that they can find their place in this story
and then become story tellers for others in the world.**

From the Pastor's Heart

Dear Friends!

For the new year the watchword is a brief word from Romans 15.7:

“Welcome/receive one another, therefore, just as Christ as welcomed/received you, for the glory of God.”

This being the last article I will write officially as the pastor of this congregation, I think it is a very fitting word from St Paul on which to base my message. The 14 years that my family and I have had the privilege of being in your congregation have been years in which we have experienced a hearty welcome, being fully received and accepted. Through this, and I have heard it from many people that a feeling of being welcome is at the heart of this congregation. The centre of the Gospel of Jesus Christ was made the basis of your life together as members of this congregation. And let's be quite clear about this – welcoming others, often strange and different from ourselves, is not always an easy thing to do. We are so often wary and worried that strangers will disrupt and disturb the peace in our community. And yet this “welcoming of the stranger” in your midst is a very important way of living the Gospel in a practical and down to earth way – and everyone can take part in it – we don't need much training or fancy thinking to get it right – we only need an awareness of the one thing that is of utmost importance: That Christ has welcomed/received us! We all are God's children on account of Christ dying for us on the cross and being raised to new life by God to endorse Christ's message of Grace and Forgiveness for all sinners.

And so with Paul I want to exhort and encourage you to continue being the welcoming, receiving, accepting community that you have shown us to be. Looking into the future (I can't of course really do that), I see that more and more our congregation will be a congregation of Christians from many different backgrounds – and all the more it will be good for us all to keep this word of St Paul in mind. In the time that lies ahead various different pastors will be coming to serve the congregation and in time the new pastor called into this service here will be installed and they all will also need to find the welcoming, accepting, receiving hearts that you have shown me.

I want to thank you all for 14 wonderful years of working and living together here in Port Elizabeth – living as God's beloved children and working to bring God's message of Grace and Forgiveness to the community, the city and the many people we came into contact with over the years. You faithfully supported me and my family and words cannot express how deeply grateful we are for your support. May God continue to guide and bless you all, both at home and as you work together in the congregation to welcome/receive the strangers in your midst as Christ welcomed/received you to the Glory of God.

In Christ,

Felix Meylahn

A word from Barbara Meylahn

Dear members of the Friedenskirche Congregation in Port Elizabeth!

The name of this congregation is really very suitable – Friedenskirche – Peace church – at least, that is how we experienced our 14 years here in PE.

I still remember how sad I was to leave the very active Bellville Congregation, but I knew that God had called us here, and that it would be a blessing for us to be here: And it was!

I want to thank you all for making us feel so at home here. Our three children basically grew up here and they were always welcomed and accepted. No pressure was put on them to be especially good kids – just because their father was the pastor. No, they were treated like everybody else and thus felt at home.

I loved taking part in the church activities and want to thank you for letting me. I enjoyed doing the odd family service with you and also was amazed how everybody joined in with our activities. What a blessing to have a congregation that gets up and moves out of its usual patterns allowing change to happen.

It is with a sad heart that we say farewell. We were very happy here in PE and it was the best place for our kids to grow up, for me to grow in my profession as physiotherapist and for Felix to grow as messenger of the Good News.

We loved living in the manse, with the sunny, wide and light rooms. Winter was no problem because we had the sun to warm us as it shone through the big windows.

It is also with some excitement that we move into a new calling. Stellenbosch is a beautiful place and we are moving closer to our children and also to many “old” friends.

The congregation will be different but I believe that God has called us to a new task and we are willing to go and are looking forward to the new work that lies ahead.

May you all stay together in peace and hold onto each other while you wait for the new pastor to come.

May God bless and keep you safe until we see each other again – here in PE when we come to visit you or in Stellenbosch, when you come to visit us.

Lots of Love from Barbara, Janusz, Mia and Benedikt






Gottesdienste December 2014 Divine Service

Losung für Dezember 2014

Die Wüste und Einöde wird frohlocken,
und die Steppe wird jubeln und wird
blühen wie die Lilien.
Jesaja 35,1

Watchword for December 2014

The wilderness and the dry land
shall be glad, the desert shall
rejoice and blossom; like the
crocus.
Isaiah 35.1

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|--|--|---|---|
| 07.12.2014  | 2. Advent | Gottesdienst mit Konfirmation und Abendmahl 09:30 | Lukas 21,25–33 |
| 14.12.2014  | Third Sunday in Advent | Divine Service Holy Communion 09:30 | Matthew 11.2–6 (7–10) |
| 21.12.2014  | Fourth Sunday in Advent 4. Advent | Combined Divine Service Holy Communion English / Deutsch 11:00 | Luke 1.(39–45) 46–55(56) |
| 24.12.2014  | Christmas Eve Heilig Abend Christversper | Divine Service 17:00 18:15 Gottesdienst | Luke 2.1–14 (15–20) Lukas 2,1–14 (15–20) |
| 25.12.2014  | Christmas Day | Divine Service Holy Communion 09:30 | Luke 2.(1–14) 15–20 |
| 28.12.2014 | | No service | |






Gottesdienste January 2015 Divine Services

Losung für Januar 2015

So lange die Erde besteht, sollen
nicht aufhören Aussaat und Ernte,
Kälte und Hitze, Sommer und
Winter, Tag und Nacht.
1. Mose 8,22

Watchword for January 2015

As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,
summer and winter, day and night,
shall not cease.
Genesis 8.22 ,

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p>04.01.2015</p>  | <p>Epiphany</p> | <p>Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl 09:30</p> | <p>Matthäus 2,1–12</p> |
| <p>11.01.2015</p>  | <p>First Sunday after the Epiphany</p> | <p>Divine Service Holy Communion 09:30</p> | <p>Matthew 3.13–17</p> |
| <p>18.01.2015</p>   | <p>Second Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>2. Sonntag nach Epiphany</p> | <p>Divine Service 09:00</p> <p>10.15 Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl</p> | <p>John 2.1–11</p> <p>Johannes 2,1-11</p> |
| <p>25.01.2015</p>  | <p>Last Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>Followed by AGM</p> | <p>Family Service Holy Communion 09:30</p> | <p>Matthew 17.1–9</p> |
| | | | |

Was der Pastor auf dem Herzen hat

Liebe Gemeinde und Freunde,

für das neue Jahr (2015) ist die Jahreslosung ein Wort aus dem Römerbrief des Apostels Paulus (15,7):

„Nehmt einander an, wie Christus euch angenommen hat zu Gottes Lob.“

Das ist nun wohl der letzte Artikel, den ich offiziell als Pastor dieser Gemeinde für den Gemeindebrief schreibe – und da ist es doch sicherlich sehr passend, dieses Wort des Apostels als Grundlage meines Schreibens zu nehmen. 14 Jahre waren wir (die Meylahns) hier in Eurer Gemeinde und wir haben uns von Anfang an wohl gefühlt, aufgenommen in euren Herzen, angenommen, wie Christus uns annimmt. Ich habe es immer wieder von Menschen gehört, die in diese Gemeinde als Gäste oder als Dazu gezogene kamen, dass sie in dieser Gemeinde ganz besonders stark das Gefühl hatten, angenommen, akzeptiert, willkommen zu sein. Da ist also das Zentrum des Evangeliums zur Grundlage des Lebens in dieser Gemeinde geworden. Dabei muss uns ganz klar sein, dass es gar nicht so einfach ist, einen anderen, fremden Menschen anzunehmen. Wir sind eigentlich doch etwas zurückhaltend und vielleicht sogar ängstlich, weil andere, fremde Menschen ja auch Unruhe und Veränderung in die Gemeinde bringen können. Aber gerade darum ist es ja so ein wichtiges Zeichen der christlichen Botschaft, wenn wir andere Menschen annehmen, ihnen zeigen, dass wir in Christus mit ihnen verbunden sind. Und das geschieht in solch einer praktischen, einfachen Art, dass alle sich daran beteiligen können – ohne besondere Ausbildung oder hochfliegende Gedanken – nur eines brauchen wir dazu: das klare Bewusstsein, dass Christus uns angenommen hat und dass wir darum mit allen anderen Christen zusammen gehören. Er ist für uns und für alle Menschen gestorben und am dritten Tag von Gott aus dem Tod auferweckt worden – damit wollte Gott sagen: Seine Botschaft der Gnade und Vergebung für die Sünder ist wahr – sie gilt für jeden, der sie hört.

Darum möchte ich nun mit Paulus Sie/euch noch einmal dazu ermuntern, diesen Zuspruch zu hören und daraus zu leben – auch in die Zukunft dieser Gemeinde hineinzugehen mit diesem Bewusstsein: wir sind alle zusammen Gottes Kinder. Ich sehe, wie immer mehr Menschen ganz unterschiedlicher Herkunft sich unserer Gemeinde anschließen – sie fühlen sich hier wohl – und das ist gut so – ja, ich wünsche es der Gemeinde, dass dieses ganz bewusst als Aufgabe gesehen wird, Menschen diese Annahme Gottes spürbar zu schenken.

Congregation News

Auch wenn im nächsten Jahr nun verschiedene Pfarrer sich um diese Gemeinde kümmern und dann auch bald die Pfarrstelle fest besetzt wird – sie alle werden es sehr gut brauchen können, dass sie spüren, hier sind sie angenommen, hier wird ihnen die Liebe und Freundlichkeit Gottes entgegen gebracht. Das haben wir Meylahns nun die letzten 14 Jahre hier bei euch/Ihnen erlebt – und dafür wollen wir ein ganz großes Dankeschön sagen. Zusammen konnten wir hier leben als Kinder Gottes und Arbeiter in Gottes Weinberg – damit die Liebe, Gnade und Vergebung, die Christus für uns am Kreuz erkämpft hat, die Menschen in dieser Stadt erreichen. Möge diese Liebe und Gnade Gottes euch weiterhin begleiten und behüten, bei euch zu Hause und auch in der Gemeinde, dieser schönen Gemeinschaft von Gotteskindern, damit alle, die dazu kommen sich auch angenommen und in Gottes Gnade geborgen fühlen können.

Mit herzlichen Grüßen, Felix Meylahn

Geburtstage / Birthdays

December 2014

| | |
|--------|-----------------------|
| 08-Dec | Jutta Rohwer |
| 10-Dec | Blake Wright |
| 22-Dec | Sina Gädke |
| 23-Dec | Rosemarie Mittermaier |
| 24-Dec | Derek Hugh Thompson |
| 26-Dec | Darren Lentz |
| 28-Dec | Katy van Wyk |
| 30-Dec | Gerhard Fröhlich |
| | |

January 2015

| | |
|--------|----------------------|
| 01-Jan | Péter Heineke |
| 06-Jan | Genia Lokotsch |
| 09-Jan | Hagen Krieg |
| 12-Jan | Victoria Horni |
| 13-Jan | Robin Arends |
| 15-Jan | Rosi Seifert |
| 19-Jan | Ruth Rohrmoser |
| 23-Jan | Justin Köpke |
| 23-Jan | Michael Koch |
| 26-Jan | Charlotte Andrews |
| 26-Jan | Colleen Sonnenberger |
| 27-Jan | Auke Brand |
| 27-Jan | Monika Horni |
| 27-Jan | Reinhard Peter Walle |

Congregation News

Bazaar Held on Saturday, 1 November 2014

A very big thank-you to everyone who worked so hard to ensure a wonderful day for all who participated—workers, shoppers, friends and family.

Once again the raffle and auction did very well. We made well over R20 000.00 on these two 'stalls', a really worthwhile effort!

Prize winners from the Raffle ticket sales were:

- R3000.00 cash - Joy Cairncross (25/3)
- R2000.00 cash - Brian Arends (1/9)
- R600.00 food vouchers - C. Welcome (74/11)
- R400.00 food vouchers - Patrick Newman (71/11)
- Voucher for Monkeyland ... - Wayne Boettcher (7/5)
- German Club voucher - Neil Haschick (40/7)
- Necklace - Linzi Marais (108/17)
- Telephone handset - Leorean Swartbooi (57/6)

Thank-you to our sponsors, **Monkeyland, Birds of Eden and Jukani** and to the **German Club**—your consistent support is much appreciated.

Thank-you most sincerely to the following church **members, friends and sponsors** for their **donations of cash or prizes** for the **raffle and the auction**:

Chris Burger, Wolfgang Paetzold, Peter Koch, Charlotte Andrews, Thomas Fuchs of the German Club, Family Horni / Continental Tyres, Mathias Schmidt of Ritco Jewellers, Gisela Schmidt/Andrea Barendse of Ultimate Stylists, Bernie Kitching of Homeleigh Farms, Christie & Roy Handley of Thatchwoods Restaurant, Reinhard Walle, Neil Haschick, Monkeyland, Birds of Eden & Jukani, Hans Schaberg, Christel Schaedler, Adina Pieters, Molly Trumpp, Henry Newman, Rosemarie Mittermaier, Gerry West, Marilyn Fabre of Avroy Shlain Cosmetics, Lisa Thomas.

Your generosity is really appreciated! Without you it would have been so much more difficult to find prizes for the raffle and items for the auction.

Congregation News

A sincere thank-you is also due to our **auctioneer, Neil McLaggan** who was ably assisted **by Michelle**. Michelle printed a catalogue of items for the auction, for which we are most grateful. Neil's humorous approach to the auction and his persuasive manner resulted in a very successful sale, which brought in approximately R6 000.00.

All the items were sold, with the biggest attraction being the gingerbread house, baked and decorated by **Christel Schaedler**.



MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Dear Members

This congregation has always worked on a system of a “contribution” from members to meet the Levy that must be paid to the Cape Church who cover the costs of employing Pastors. This contribution is paid monthly by most members by means of a debit order into the Church bank account. Others make an annual payment or add their contribution into the collections made during services.

The serious shortfall in contributions estimated at the end of this year (R30,000.00) has prompted the need to ask everyone to look into their finances and seriously consider increasing their contribution. As a guideline, if the subsidised Cape Church Levy* is divided by the number of baptised members, each would be required to contribute R187.00 per month or rounded off to R500.00 per average family.

The Church is very appreciative of those who contribute more and understands that there are those who can only pay less.

We have not in the recent past practiced a “statement” system recording contributions but have come to realise that some people rely on reminders. If you would prefer a statement reflecting contributions received, please request this from the treasurer. E-mail: treasurer@lutheran-pe.org or telephone 041 360 3317. All transactions are treated with complete confidentiality.

Yours truly

Felix Meylahn
Pastor

Geoff Andrews
Chairman

*We receive a subsidy of R10,000.00 per month from the larger congregations through the solidarity fund of the Cape Church because of our size. This could be discontinued at any time.

Contributions/Donations

Payment can be made directly to 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



Records Update / Korrekturen

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 one of the church wardens (e.g. membership@lutheran-pe.org).

Sind Sie umgezogen oder haben Sie festgestellt, dass wir Ihre persönlichen Informationen nicht korrekt gespeichert haben - wie z.B. Schreibweise Ihres Namens, falsche Adresse, Telefonnummer, Geburtsdatum - dann bitten wir Sie, uns dieses schriftlich mitzuteilen und zwar an einen der Kirchenvorsteher (z.B. membership@lutheran-pe.org).

Church Committee 2014

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 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 |
| Carol Buschhold | 248 Circular Drive, warden3@lutheran-pe.org 041-368 5976 H | Lorraine PE 6070 076 134 3333 |
| Deana Deutschman | 16 Melsetter Estate warden5@lutheran-pe.org 041-368 3551 | Lovemore Heights 6070 084 580 6783 |
| Colin Lentz | 13 Miles Avenue warden6@lutheran-pe.org 041-368 4463 | Charlo 6070 081 353 9479 |
| 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 |