

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

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Planned

Church Warden's Retreat

Saturday 13 February 2016 @ 09:00

Church Warden's Induction

Sunday 14 February 2016 @ 09:30

Easter Market

Saturday 19 March 2016 @ 09:00

Lenten Devotions

10 February — 16 March
Every Wednesday @ 19:30

Easter Services

Ash Wednesday

10 Feb 2016 @ 19:30
English Divine Service

Maundy Thursday

24 March 2016 @ 19:30
English Divine Service

Good Friday

25 March 2016 @ 09:30
Combined English/German Service

Easter Sunday

27 March 20156 @ 09:30
English Divine Service

Baptism

Followed by a Bring and Share Brunch
with egg hunt

Regular

Weekly Home Church

Wednesday evenings @ 19:30
Combined: English and German

Children's Church

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

2nd Sunday each month
@ 09:30

3rd Sunday each month
@ 09:00

Children are invited to stay
in the Sanctuary during the
sermon on other Sundays.

Leaders of Children's Church:

Elizabeth Köpke
083 232 6624

Kerilee Thompson
041 371 1793

Joys and Sorrows

Stefan Koch and Rene Gouwz were married in our church on Saturday 19 December 2015. We pray that they will be blessed to be together for many years.

Pastor em. Peter Koch was taken into the nearer presence of his Lord on 20 December 2015 and was laid to rest in Port Elizabeth on 28 December 2015. May his family and friends be comforted by the mercy of our Lord.

Clinton and Rene Sternberg brought their son, Nicolas to be baptised on Sunday 21 December 2015. We welcome this new disciple into our congregation.

Congratulations to Darren Lentz who received his degree in Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) Honours (Accounting) from NMMU at the end of 2015. This is the Certificate in the Theory of Accounting (CTA) that is accredited by the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA).

He will be writing his first board exam at the end of January 2016 and will begin his 3-year training contract with KPMG in Port Elizabeth from March 2016. We wish you all the best Darren.

He previously received his degree in Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) (Rationum) Computer Science and Information Systems at the end of 2013, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Accounting at the end of 2014.

NB: Please let Anthea have your news before the next newsletter.

Lenten Devotions

On Ash Wednesday (10 February 2016) we will start our 6 weeks of Lenten Devotion series @ 19h30 in the church sanctuary. Our theme will be "Our own Thorny Circle of Suffering and Christ's Breakthrough" and will run through till Maundy Thursday (24 March 2016). Please join us on this journey of reflection towards the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord.

Please also note that Easter Sunday divine service will take place at **09h30** when we will also celebrate the baptism of Leona and Maya Breitfeld. We will meet together for a bring and share brunch in the hall afterwards. The usual egg hunt will take place too. Invite your family and friends to join in.

From the Bishop's Desk

Circuit Conference East

- a. Coastal Parish. Pastor H-P von Fintel was inducted as pastor of the parish on 29 November during a well-attended and festive celebration at St. Andrew's in East London. We wish him and the congregation God's richest blessing for the journey together.
- b. Friedenskirche in Port Elizabeth. Pastor Anja Spiske was inducted as pastor of the congregation on 13 December 2015 during a joyous celebratory service. We wish her and the congregation God's richest blessing for the journey together.

Circuit Conference West

- a. Pastor Claudia Nolte-Schamm will start her ministry at the St. Martini congregation early in the second half of 2016. We wish her and her family God's guidance as they prepare for the new ministry opportunity.
- b. The St Petri congregation in Paarl is prayerfully looking at different ways of continuing with congregational life in order to serve as the body of Christ in that area.
- c. The following visitations have been planned during the first 6 months:
Philippi from 19-21 February;
Strand Street from 11-13 March.
We wish them wisdom and strength for the preparations.

From the Bishop's Desk

Pastors Conference

- a. The Lutheran Coordination Committee, together with the Berlin Mission Society has arranged a seminar for the CCW pastors from 3-5 February to deal with the Theology of Tumsa Gudina.
- b. The international conference of “Fresh Expressions” will take place from 16-18 February in Cape Town. This organisation looks at various new ways in which the church has developed. Some pastors will participate.

Theological Training

The financial situation of ELCSA has necessitated the Southern African Lutheran Theological Training Trust, **SALTTT**, to close down operations at the **Lutheran Theological Institute in Pietermaritzburg**. UELCSA Students wishing to enrol for theological studies should contact their bishop. Currently UELCSA has decided to recommend the University of Stellenbosch as preferred institution for undergraduate students for the ministry.

This brings to an end a 40 year relationship with the University of Kwazulu Natal. A reflection on this will follow at a later stage.

Gilbert Filter

From the Pastor's Heart

THE UPPER ROOM

Watchword for March 2016- John 15:9

"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love."

The setting of John chapter 15 is the upper room where Jesus and his disciples shared their last meal together. So, contextually speaking, Jesus is in the "upper room" with his disciples and spends a great deal of time there with them, reassuring them that everything that has happened and that will happen will be good news for them, including the fact that he is returning to the Father. Yet, all his reassurances are met with questions born of doubt. They are getting more nervous as time goes on. All they see is their world falling apart. The more Jesus talks, the more the lights seem to be going out. They are feeling the darkness.

Closed In

So, first the bad, as the upper room is in turmoil. There we meet Jesus and his disciples who have gathered there prior to his betrayal and crucifixion, now in crisis. The mood of the disciples in that room, also in the room after his death, is dark. In their isolation they are turned inward, dealing with defeat, desolation, consumed by despair and death. We, too, in common with them, experience the sense of being closed in by the pressures we live with, the fears that paralyze, the need to withdraw, to pull the blanket over our heads, taking refuge in a (tomb)-room, all self-centered attempts to escape life's harsh realities. And, sadly, when we are self-absorbed, we are loveless and joyless (v. 11).

Dead-ended

At the same time, we are doomed to find love and joy in the wrong places. On the one hand, we feel safe and comfortable in our confined spaces, loving our tomb-room, hoping to find something there that will sustain us. On the other hand, we are also motivated to escape the tomb, believing the illusion that we can make a life for ourselves by feeling expansive and productive and adventuresome, only to discover another kind of dead-ended-ness. That, too, reveals how we are unable to escape our darkness, as Jesus said, when he spoke to the scribes and Pharisees, how we can become "like whitewashed tombs, which on the outside look beautiful, but inside they are full of the bones of the dead" (Matt. 23:27).

Shut Out

And so, the more we run from the tomb, the more we remain in it, doomed to a death from which we cannot escape, left to our dreams and fantasies which sooner or later die, and we with them. And, what is that other than hiding in the tomb, hanging out with the devil and his dead-ended ways, loving death more than the living God, stuck then with our own choices, finally with God's verdict, long ago spoken to the man and the woman in the garden, "the day that you sin you will surely die" (Gen. 2:17).

From the Pastor's Heart

The Womb Room *Breached*

But, that is not the whole story, as God "is (the) God not of the dead, but of the living" (Matt. 22:32b). To the womb room, then, where we have no ability to create ourselves or redeem ourselves or resurrect ourselves, what is always a given, where we come to life by a promise made to the man and the woman in the garden, how their offspring will crush the head of the serpent (Gen. 3:15), how the virgin Mary (Luke 1:30-33) will bear a son, Jesus the Christ, the eternal God in the flesh, the room where we all live and die. Is this not "the greater love" (15:13) that Jesus holds out to his disciples, how he "endured the cross, disregarding its shame" (Heb. 12:2), then rose from the grave, birthing new life, to deliver us from the tomb where we suffer death and judgment, what God suffers away forever? As a result, we now live in a room that opens to a new world already begun, the upper room, the womb room, eternal life emerging, a reality in the here-and-now (John 5:24). The church sanctuary can be such a womb room – a place where we grow in faith by being fed and nourished with the Word of God and His body and blood in bread and wine; then "being born" and going out again with new strength to bring love and joy to a world full of tombs.

Raise

Remarkably, we grasp (better, we are grasped by) the presence of the living Lord in this room, this sanctuary. In the upper room described in John 15, where fear and despair abound, Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples, in anticipation of a new day, as when the Israelites, exiting Egypt, escaped the house (the tomb) of bondage, how now Jesus, once dead and now alive forever, "the living bread that came down from heaven" (John 6:51), gathers his flock, feeding us at an open table, offering us his eternal life, yes, making us as alive as he is.

Bearing Fruit

And so, from the womb, birthed by the Holy Spirit, we move out from the table as the people of God, entering the world, to the places where tombs abound, where hopelessness and meaninglessness smother, as we get to give witness that the whole world has been invaded by the presence of the Risen One, to be God's people, the church, showing the way, sharing the roominess of God's love, bridging earth and heaven. Already, before his death and resurrection, in the upper room, Jesus prayed that the Father's love which he had received would also be in his disciples (17:26), and would empower them, and now us, to "bear much fruit" (v. 8) as those newly-born, the baptized, emerging from the tomb and the womb, looking alive, joyful, loving, and free!

HAPPY AND BLESSED EASTER EVERYONE!







Pastor Anja

Losung für Februar 2016

Wenn ihr beten wollt und ihr habt einem anderen etwas vorzuwerfen, dann vergebt ihm, damit auch euer Vater im Himmel euch eure Verfehlungen vergibt. Mk 11,25

Watchword for February 2016

And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins. Mark, 11, 25

<p>07.02.2016</p> 	<p>Estomihi: Sonntag vor der Passionszeit</p>	<p>Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl 09:30</p>	<p>1. Korinther 13.1-13</p>
<p>10.02.2016</p> 	<p>Ash Wednesday</p>	<p>Divine Service 19:30</p>	<p>2. Petrus 1.2-11</p>
<p>14.02.2016</p> 	<p>Invocavit: First Sunday in Lent</p>	<p>Divine Service Holy Communion 09:30</p>	<p>Hebrews 4.14-16</p>
<p>21.02.2016</p>  	<p>Reminiscere: Second Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Reminiscere: 2. Sonntag der Passionszeit</p>	<p>Divine Service 09:00</p> <p>10:15 Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl</p>	<p>Romans 5.1-5 (6-11)</p> <p>Römer 5,1-5 (6-11)</p>
<p>28.02.2016</p> 	<p>Oculi: Third Sunday in Lent</p>	<p>Divine Service Holy Communion 09:30</p>	<p>Ephesians 5.1-8a</p>








Losung für März 2016

Jesus Christus spricht: Wie mich der Vater geliebt hat, so habe auch ich euch geliebt. Bleibt in meiner Liebe!
Joh 15,9

Watchword for March 2016

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

John 15, 9

<p>06.03.2016</p> 	<p>Lätare: 4. Sonntag der Passionszeit</p>	<p>Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl 09:30</p>	<p>2. Korinther 1,3–7</p>
<p>13.03.2016</p> 	<p>Judica: 5th Sunday in Lent</p>	<p>Divine Service Holy Communion 09:30</p>	<p>Hebrews 5.7–9</p>
<p>20.03.2016</p>  	<p>Palmarum: 6th Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Palmsonntag: 6. Sonntag der Passionszeit</p>	<p>Divine Service 09:00</p> <p>10:15 Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl</p>	<p>Philippians 2.5–11</p> <p>Philipper 2,5–11</p>
<p>24.03.2016</p> 	<p>Maundy Thursday</p>	<p>Divine Service Holy Communion 19:30</p>	<p>1 Corinthians 11.23–26</p>
<p>25.03.2016</p> 	<p>Good Friday Karf Freitag Combined English and Deutsch</p>	<p>09:30 Divine Service Holy Communion Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl</p>	<p>2 Corinthians 5.(14b–18)19–21</p> <p>2. Korinther 5,(14b-18),19-21</p>
<p>27.03.2016</p> 	<p>Easter Sunday The Resurrection of Our Lord</p>	<p>Divine Service Holy Communion and Baptism 09:30</p>	<p>1 Corinthians 15.1–11</p>

Aus den Gemeinden

Bezirks Konferenz Ost

- a. 'Coastal Parish'. Pastor H-P von Fintel ist am 29. November in einem feierlichen Gottesdienst in der St. Andrew's Gemeinde in East London in seinem Amt eingeführt worden. Wir wünschen ihm und der Gemeinde Freude am gemeinsamen Dienst.
- b. Pastorin Anja Spiske ist am 13. Dezember 2015 in einem festlichen Gottesdienst in der Friedenskirche als Pastorin der Gemeinde eingeführt worden. Wir wünschen ihr und der Gemeinde Gottes Segen und viel Freude an der Arbeit.

Bezirks Konferenz West

- a. Pastorin Claudia Nolte-Schamm wird ihren Dienst in der St. Martini Gemeinde im Juli 2016 beginnen. Wir wünschen ihr viel Kraft für die Zeit der Vorbereitung.
- b. Die St. Petri Gemeinde in Paarl ist mutig dabei, das Gemeindeleben neu zu gestalten und nach neuen Wegen zu suchen, Christi Leib mit und für die Gemeinschaft von Paarl zu sein. Wir wünschen ihnen viel Kraft dazu.
- c. Visitationen der folgenden Gemeinden sind für die erste Jahreshälfte geplant:
Philippi vom 19 - 21. Februar;
Strand Street vom 11-13. März.
Wir wünschen viel Kraft und Weisheit bei den Vorbereitungen.

Pfarrkonferenz

- a. Das „Lutheran Co-ordinating“ Komitee - zusammen mit dem Beliner Missionswerk - wird vom 3-5. Februar ein Seminar für die Pastoren in Athlone durchführen. Wir wollen uns mit der Theologie des äthiopischen Theologen Gudina Tumsa auseinandersetzen.
- b. Vom 16-18. Februar trifft sich die Internationale Konferenz von „Fresh Expression“ in Kapstadt. Es werden einige Pastoren daran teilnehmen. Es handelt sich um neue Formen und Möglichkeiten wie Kirche sich neu mit der Gesellschaft auseinandersetzt.

Zukunft der Theologischen Ausbildung

Die Finanzlage der ELCSA hat den „Southern African Lutheran Theological Training Trust“, **SALTTT**, genötigt, die Arbeit am **“Lutheran Theological Institute” in Pietermaritzburg** zu beenden. VELKSA Studenten, die sich für das Theologiestudium melden wollen, sollen sich bitte an ihren Bischof wenden. Bis auf Weiteres empfiehlt VELKSA die Universität Stellenbosch als Institution für unsere theologische Ausbildung.

Damit kommt eine 40 Jahre lange Zusammenarbeit mit der Universität in Pietermaritzburg zu einem Ende.

Gilbert Filter

Was der Pastor auf dem Herzen hat

Liebet einander

Losung für März 2016:

“Wie mich mein Vater liebt, so liebe ich auch euch.

Bleibet in meiner Liebe.“

In keinem der anderen Evangelien hören wir Jesus solche Worte der Liebe sprechen wie in dem von Johannes. In allen Evangelien aber können wir aus dem Reden und Handeln Jesu ablesen, was es heißt, aus der Liebe und in der Liebe zu leben.

„Du bist mein lieber Sohn, an dem ich Wohlgefallen habe.“ Mit dieser Zusage der Liebe Gottes begann der Weg Jesu zu den Menschen. Sie trug ihn, sie begleitete ihn. Sie blieb bei ihm und er in ihr. Es war seine Freude, Gottes Liebe weiterzugeben – freigebig, großzügig, schöpfend aus einer unendlichen Fülle.

Er sammelte Menschen um sich, die Schar seiner Jünger. Stellte er irgendwelche Bedingungen, als er sie aufforderte, ihm zu folgen? Wir lesen von keinen. Und wir Christen? Die meisten von uns sind ohne Vorleistung als Kinder getauft worden, aufgenommen in die Gemeinde Jesu, geborgen in der Liebe Gottes.

Jesus ließ seine Jünger teilhaben an seinem Leben, dessen innerstes Gesetz die Liebe war, und damit an der Freiheit, sich nicht sorgen zu müssen um sich selbst. Er zog sie hinein in seine Freude, als Kinder Gottes leben zu können. Jesus nennt sie seine Freunde. Für das, was er mit ihnen gelebt hat, ist er bereit, sein Leben einzusetzen.

Jeder Mensch braucht Liebe, viel Liebe und immer wieder Liebe zum Leben. Aber es scheint gar nicht so viel Liebe in der Welt zu geben, wie gebraucht wird. Das liegt wohl daran, dass alle nur Liebe haben wollen und nur wenige bereit sind, Liebe zu geben.

Was der Pastor auf dem Herzen hat

Aber wo die Liebe fehlt, da wächst die Angst. Und so suchen wir überall Ersatz für die fehlende Liebe. Das Kind nimmt das Kuscheltier, wenn die Mutter nicht da ist, oder es nascht Schokolade (Erwachsene übrigens auch). Erwachsene verkriechen sich auch in die Arbeit oder suchen den Erfolg, wo ihnen Liebe fehlt. Und wenn sich schon keiner um alte Menschen kümmert, - dann – so scheint es ihnen – muss es wenigstens jemanden geben, der sie verfolgt und Böses gegen sie im Schilde führt. – Aber das alles ist nur ein Ersatz. Hans Christian Andersen hat es in seiner Geschichte von der Nachtigall treffen beschrieben: Die künstliche Nachtigall kann begeistern und kann uns die echte Nachtigall vergessen lassen. Aber sie kann nicht so singen wie die richtige Nachtigall, eben so, dass denen, die den Gesang hören, das Herz aufgeht

Darum hat Gott Jesus in die Welt gesandt. Jesus ist den Menschen mit Gottes Liebe begegnet. Wir meinen oft, wir leben von dem, was wir schaffen und besitzen. Aber das will Gott uns durch Jesus zeigen: Dies alles schenkt uns keinen inneren Frieden. Unser Leben wird reich allein durch die Liebe, die wir bekommen und weitergeben. Mehr noch: Allein durch die Liebe wird die Welt wirklich zum Guten verändert.

„Liebet einander!“ Das ist sein Vermächtnis. Indem er das seinen Jüngern, indem er uns das sagt, sagt er gleichzeitig: „Ich traue euch zu, dass ihr es könnt.“ Er sagt es im Vertrauen zum Vater, der allen, die sich ihm zuwenden, Kraft gibt aus seiner Kraft und Liebe aus seiner unendlichen Fülle.

FROHE UND GESEGNETE OSTERN EUCH ALLEN!

Eure Pastorin Anja

February 2016

01-Feb	Herwig Erwin Kussing
04-Feb	Jan Heineke
04-Feb	Karla Arends
04-Feb	Melita Bagshaw
07-Feb	Kurt Eichhoff
10-Feb	Gisela Schmidt
10-Feb	Molly Trumpp
11-Feb	David Thompson
13-Feb	Joan Cairncross
17-Feb	Brian Arends
25-Feb	Candice Bürger
28-Feb	Gemma Bürger
28-Feb	Joan Burgdorf

March 2016

03-Mar	Reinhard Mahlert
04-Mar	Igor Lokotsch
08-Mar	Anne Bride
18-Mar	Owen Kivedo
19-Mar	Ursula Angloher
21-Mar	Ashley Sonnenberger
24-Mar	Dale Thompson
24-Mar	Josef Ritter
26-Mar	Sicilia Welcome
26-Mar	Ursula Eichhoff

Contributions, Donations / Kirchbeitrag

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

Reinhard Walle (membership@lutheran-pe.org)
or one of the church wardens (refer to page 16).

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 entweder an Reinhard Walle (membership@lutheran-pe.org) oder einen Kirchenvorsteher (siehe Seite 16).

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