



The Season of Lent



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

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Planned

Induction of Church Wardens

Sunday, 12 February

Wardens' Retreat

Saturday, 18 February

Guest Preacher,

Ben Fourie, Bible Society

Sunday, 26 February

Visitation by the Bishop and Team

24 to 26 March

Liebe deutschsprechende Gemeindeglieder

Bitte entschuldigen Sie, dass in diesem Gemeindebrief keine Beiträge in deutscher Sprache sind, da wir nicht genügend Platz hatten. Einige Beiträge finden Sie auf unserer Homepage in Deutsch, wie die Informationen unseres Bischofs und den Pfarramtsbericht von Pastor Anja. Fragen Sie uns bezüglich weiterer Beiträge.

Regular

Weekly House Church

Wednesday evenings

@ 19:30

Combined: English / German

Open Door

Last **Tuesday** of each month

@ 10:00

Marita Fröhlich 041 360 3317 or
082 564 3409

Young Adults

2nd **Friday** of each month

@ 19:00

Children's Church

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

2nd & 3rd Sunday of each month
Children are invited to stay in the Sanctuary during the sermon on other Sundays.

Last Sunday of the month is **Family Service** and geared towards children too.

Leader of Children's Church:
Elizabeth Köpke 083 232 6624



Thank you Auke Brand for making the sandbox for our Children's Church room. The little ones will love playing with the toys in the sandbox AFTER they have listened to the lesson for the day.



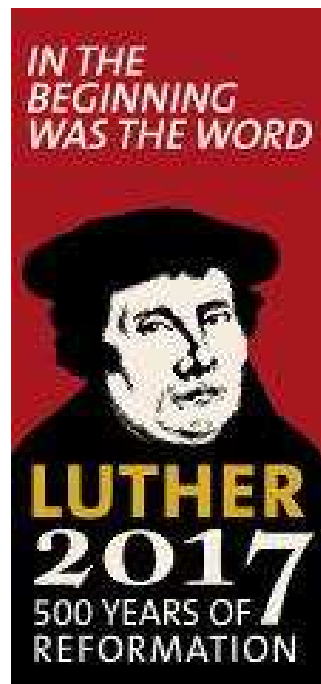
Wabamkela pupils eating Christmas Cookies donated by Dorle Kussing and Charlotte Andrews.

Thank you to all for the faithful support of during the past year.

The Reformation - 500 Years of History

On 31 October 2017, we celebrate the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's posting of the 95 theses on the door of the Wittenberg Church Castle. While celebrations in earlier centuries were kept national and confessional, the upcoming anniversary of the Reformation ought to be shaped by openness, freedom and ecumenism. In 2017 we are not just celebrating 500 years of the Reformation, but we are also reminded of the role that the Reformation played in the development of the modern age.

Bishop Gilbert Filter reminds us that "Once again we need to remind each other that 2017 is not just a celebration of an event, but an opportunity to re-think and re-discover our purpose and calling as the Body of Christ, which is guided by the Word of God with a focus given by Lutheran tradition and doctrine."



What does Reformation mean?

Reform (re+form) comes from the Latin word *reformare* which means: "To restore to the original condition." In terms of Church History: the 16th Century movement for the reform of abuses in the Roman Catholic Church, ending in the establishment of other churches.

Situation of the people in the time of Martin Luther:

There were many poor people. The very poor were oppressed by the rich and even the Church. The wealthy owned the land. The church at that time was part of this group. The poor people worked on the farms and had little money. The people had a short life expectancy at that time and experienced a lot of suffering.

Situation of the Church in the time of Martin Luther

It was a time of pilgrimages. A pilgrim is a traveller who is on a journey to a holy place, for example, Jerusalem or Rome. People spent a lot of time and money going on pilgrimages. They wanted to see relics. A relic is something of importance that survived for a long time. For example, a piece of the crown of Jesus. People also bought indulgence letters so that they would spend less time in purgatory. Purgatory is a place or state of suffering inhabited by the souls of sinners who are compensating for their sins before going to heaven. The money from the sale of indulgence letters went to the church to build massive buildings and fund riches of the church.

The Reformation - 500 Years of History

Historical Overview of the Life of Martin Luther:

- 1483** Luther was born on 10.11.1483 in Eisleben, Germany. In 1501 Luther was a student at Erfurt University. Here he studied law.
- 1505** In 1505 Luther becomes a monk and enters the Erfurt monastery. In 1511 Luther was a lecturer at the University of Wittenberg. In 1517 he became a professor at Wittenberg. In this time he struggles with the question: "How can I find a merciful God?" Luther finds the answer in Romans 1:17 "God's righteousness" and justification by grace alone.
- 1517** On 31 October 1517 Luther hammers the 95 theses on the church door of Wittenberg. This is the beginning of the Reformation. Luther attacks the sale of indulgences and relics as a means for the forgiveness of sins.
- 1520** Some of Luther's most important writings are written in this time. The Reformation is spreading fast.
- 1521** Luther is ordered to the Diet of Worms (which is an assembly at Worms) in April 1521. Here Luther is ordered to recant. But he refuses and states: "Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason - I do not accept the authority of popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other - my conscience is captive to the word of God. I cannot recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe."
- 1522** Luther, hidden in the Wartburg Castle, translates the New Testament from Latin into German language. Luther later returns to Wittenberg. Here he writes, preaches, and still continues to reform the church life.
- 1525** Luther marries Katarina von Bora on 13 June 1525. The Reformation is spreading through Europe.
- 1529** Luther publishes his Small Catechism and Large Catechism.
- 1546** Luther dies in Eisleben on 15 February 1546.

Why is it relevant for us?

Luther brought us back to the foundation, the centre of the church. Who is the foundation of our faith and the Church? According to 1 Corinthians 3:11, "no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ." Therefore, we should always reform ourselves so that we make sure that the foundation on which we, and the church build, is Jesus Christ.

Pastoral Report

‘Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.’ Luke 12:32

Dear Friends!

Another year has passed by and what a year it has been. As a congregation we can look back at a blessed and grace filled year where God has carried and sustained us in wonderful ways. In pondering on the life of our congregation this past year a verse from the Gospel of Luke caught my eye where Jesus says to his disciples in Luke 12:32, “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

This verse reminds me of the Great Shepherd of our little flock that is leading and guiding us on our life’s journey as individuals and as a congregation. This ever important and reassuring Divine Guidance is what makes our congregation what it is : “A communion of recovering sinners” who are invited to eat and drink from the fresh green pastures of God’s Word of love and grace, to be comforted and restored by His rod and staff and lead on the paths of righteousness. Without the active work of God that the sending of this Son and His work of Salvation is the only thing that saves us, we would neither exist nor function as a congregation, and our reason for being here would not be clear.

God’s active work in our midst became clear in many ways this past year:

- Through our Divine Services, which are well established in a good rhythm of English and German and which I believe have also been well attended. These Divine Services are the heart of our congregational life and the centre from which all the other activities are fed and nourished.
- Our Children’s Church also has seen some new faces which we are very excited about and we are making sure that there’s a message for the little ones in church as well as in the time they spend in the Children’s Church room. Although there is still some reason for concern as far as attendance is concerned we are hopeful that the work in the Children’s ministry will grow. Our little ones and the shaping of their young faith are very important to us.
- Open Door meetings that take place every last Tuesday of the month have proven to be a place of growth and fellowship in a loving and caring circle of fellow pilgrims.
- Regular House Church meetings have also proven to be places of listening to the Shepherd’s voice and to each other in a warm and safe environment where we try to discern what God’s Word means to us in our daily lives, as Christians living in a broken and confusing world.
- Young Adults have started to meet once a month on a Friday evening for fellowship, watching a movie together or a “bring and braai”. We hope to encourage more young people to join this fellowship and grow in faith and as a group.

Pastoral Report

- Our church committee meetings and retreats, even though they often concentrate on matters of an administrative and maintenance nature, are also meetings where we try to listen carefully to Christ and discerning together God's will and purpose for our congregation. We have, under the capable leadership of Reinhard Walle, made sure that our congregation remains able to do what it is called to do – proclaim the Word of God and gather people together to hear the Story of God's Faithfulness. A very big and heartfelt thank you to all the members of the committee for your loyal support and committed hard work for the sake of the Body of Christ.
- A small choir also started to come together on Friday evenings to practice pieces for special occasions such as Advent and Christmas. This is a wonderful development and here we also hope to see more faces – and especially hear more voices – to enhance our music in the church as music gives life to the Word of God! Thank you very much to our organists and musicians for making our Divine Services beautiful. Our diaconic projects – the Wabamkela Pre-School and Vistarus Mission have been well supported throughout the year which shows hearts of compassion and grace beating for others in our community. Thank you!
- There are so many people who help and contribute, guide and support this congregation. There are those who quietly pray for the congregation and its leaders; who work hard for bazaars and other fundraising events; who read and serve in our Divine Services, who make sure that everything is safe and sound with the buildings; those who make sure our finances are sound and responsibly utilised; who willingly took on the divine services when I was not here. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart and thank the Lord that I am so richly blessed by being allowed to be a part of such a supportive and loving group of Christians.
- With God's active Word and grace we have, as a "little flock" accomplished a great deal of good together. May we be encouraged for the year 2017 by our Lord's reassuring and encouraging Word where He says: 'Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.'" Luke 12:32
- May God's rich blessings rest on us and His guiding Spirit lead us ever closer to His promised future. I am confident of this, that the One who began a good work among you will also bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 4:23

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Yours truly

Pastor Anja Spiske

Divine Services February '17 Gottesdienste

Losung für Februar 2017


Watchword for February 2017

Wenn ihr in ein Haus kommt,
so sagt als erstes:
Friede diesem Haus!

Whatever house you enter,
first say,
"Peace to this house!"

Lukas 10,5

Luke 10.5

<p>05.02.2017</p> 	<p>Letzter Sonntag nach Epiphantias</p>	<p>Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl 09:30</p>	<p>2. Mose 3, 1-10 (11-14)</p>
<p>12.02.2017</p> 	<p>Septuagesima: Third Sunday before Lent</p>	<p>Divine Service Holy Communion 09:30</p>	<p>Luke 17.7-10</p>
<p>19.02.2017</p>  	<p>Sexagesima: 2nd Sunday Before Lent</p> <p>Sexagesimae: 2.Sonntag vor der Passionszeit</p>	<p>Divine Service 09:00</p> <p>10:15 Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl</p>	<p>Mark 4.26-29</p> <p>Markus 4,26-29</p>
<p>26.02.2017</p> 	<p>Estomihi: Sunday before Lent</p>	<p>Family Service Holy Communion 09:30</p>	<p>Luke 10.38-42</p>

Losung für März 2017






Vor einem grauen Haupt
sollst du aufstehen und die Alten ehren
und sollst dich fürchten vor deinem Gott;
ich bin der HERR.

3. Mose 19,32

Watchword for March 2017

You shall rise before the aged,
and defer to the old;
and you shall fear your God:
I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19.32

<p>05.03.2017</p> 	<p>Invokavit: 1. Sonntag der Passionszeit</p>	<p>Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl 09:30</p>	<p>1.Mose 3,1-19 (20-24)</p>
<p>12.03.2017</p> 	<p>Reminiscere: 2nd Sunday in Lent</p>	<p>Divine Service Holy Communion 09:30</p>	<p>Mathew 12.38-42</p>
<p>19.03.2017</p>  	<p>Oculi: 3rd Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Okuli: 3. Sonntag der Passionszeit</p>	<p>Divine Service 09:00</p> <p>10:15 Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl</p>	<p>Mark 12.41-44</p> <p>Markus 12,41-44</p>
<p>26.03.2017</p> 	<p>Laetare: 4th Sunday in Lent</p>	<p>Family Service Holy Communion 09:30</p>	<p>John 6.55-65</p>

Congregational News

The following congregations will have visitation: Maclean Town (28-29 Jan.), Komga (4-5 Feb.); Friedenskirche/Port Elizabeth (24-26 March). We wish all involved the Lord's blessing and guidance in this process.

Synod 2017

The Synod will take place from 1-3 Sep. in Stellenbosch. Topic and further information will be send out after the Church Council meeting 24-26 February.

2017 – A year with the focus on (the) Reformation

LUCSA (Lutheran communion in Southern Africa) is the regional body of the LWF (Lutheran World Federation). A regional conference will take place from 5-10 February in Bonaero Park. The 12th Assembly of the LWF will take place 9-16 May 2017 in Windhoek. The theme of the Assembly: "Freed by God's grace. Salvation not for sale; People not for sale; Creation not for sale." For more information and materials see www.lwfassembly.org

Regional and local some interesting events, seminars and celebrations are being planned to reflect on (the) Reformation and its importance to the Church. In and through these some questions that need to be addressed are: Where is God taking His Church next? What does it mean to be Church here and now? What does the reformational inheritance mean in and for our context in Southern Africa. Some of the ideas planned are:

- **Table Talks** – meeting around a table with a good meal to discuss matters of faith and what it means to live as a Christian in this context. – It is in discussion and debate that theology becomes relevant and is developed in and for that context.
- Topical inputs: Katharina von Bora (wife of Martin Luther); Reformation and one world; What would be relevant "95 Thesis" be in today's Church context?; - enquire from your local congregation what is happening .
- **Musical events**
- „All Lutheran Reformation Service“, on **29.10.2017**. Venue and time will be announced at a later stage.

Studying theology at the University of Stellenbosch

You desire to make a difference in society, you have a heart for people? You can do that through the service in the Church. You want to study theology? The UELCSA offers bursaries to those who want to study theology full-time. The University of Stellenbosch is the preferred university for this training. Should you consider it, then please speak to your pastor about it.

A Brief Summary

The meeting was attended by 24 members and 9 apologies were received.

Pastor Anja Spiske opened the proceedings in prayer and Chairman Reinhard Walle welcomed everyone. After the 2016 AGM Minutes had been accepted and the 2017 Agenda agreed the various reports were delivered.

Pastor Anja encouraged us with this scripture from Luke 12.32 *'Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.'* She continued by reflecting on congregational life and activities of the past year, through:

- Our Divine Services
- Our Children's Church
- Open Door meetings
- Young Adults
- Our church committee meetings
- A small choir
- Diaconic projects: Wabamkela Pre-School and Vistarus Mission



Chairman Reinhard Walle reported on maintenance and ongoing repairs in the Church Centre and manse. Future projects which include creating a space for our Young Adults group on the mezzanine *"The Upper Room"* and enhancing the Children's Church room to accommodate the little ones.

Fundraising remains critical to our ability to meet our financial commitments. The meeting was informed that our congregation is facing a serious challenge in meeting our fiscal responsibility to the Cape Church.

2017 marks the 500th Anniversary of Evangelical Reformation (1517-2017) – we will be planning regular events to mark this anniversary. A meeting (Church Day) of all congregations in the Cape Circuit East (CCE) is scheduled for 29 October 2017 in the King Williams Town church. We are considering hiring a bus to allow as many Friedenskirche members to attend.

Treasurer Gerhard Fröhlich presented the Financial Statement for 2016 and the Budget for 2017. Once again, the congregation are informed that the budget will show a deficit. All ideas for fundraising etc. are very welcome. We will be discussing this with the Bishop at his next visit to us (24-26 March 2017).

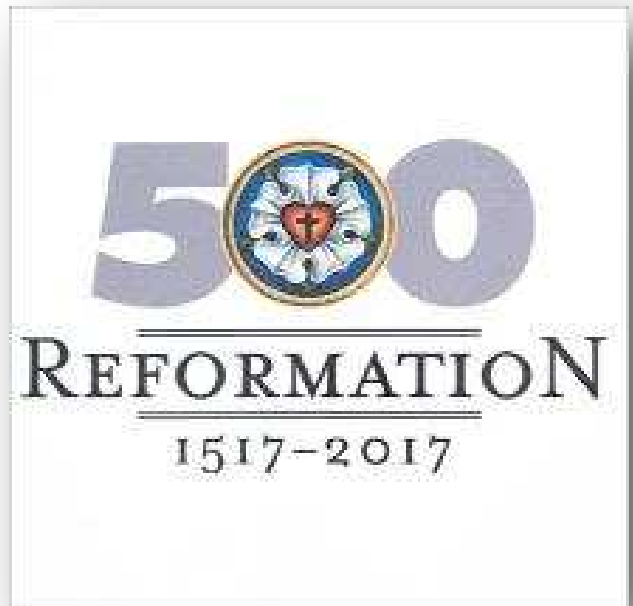
Elections for church committee members and CCE and Synod delegates were completed.

Reports are available on request.

2017 Anniversary of the Reformation:

The 500 year anniversary of the Reformation will be celebrated worldwide with ecclesiastical and cultural events, conferences and exhibitions. It will be the climax of the Luther decade that started in 2008.

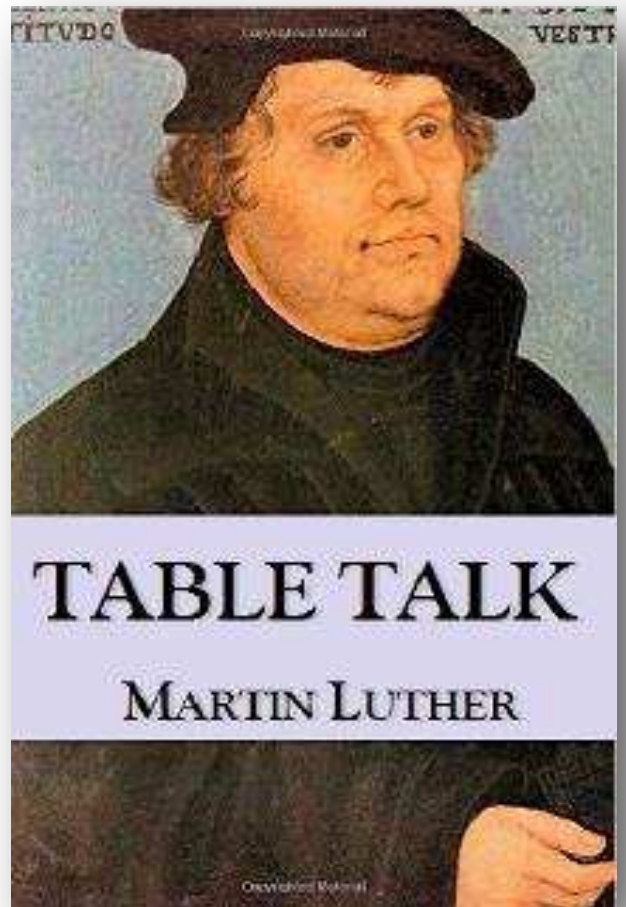
We have also planned a series of events for 2017 for our church community to get involved in this exciting journey of getting to know Martin Luther a little better and to understand better what his past actions really mean to us as Christians. These special events include Table talks, special church services with guest preachers and so on.



Family Table Talks:

Luther used to dine in a large family circle together with close collaborators, town notables, guests, and students who lived in his house. The resulting conversation would touch on a large number of subjects, not all necessarily theologian in nature but also covering history, politics, church affairs and everyday things the Reformer did not mention in his sermons, lectures and ample publications.

In the same manner, Pastor Anja has planned a number of table talks as part of our celebration of the Reformation. The idea is to invite family and friends to join us in these table talks to extend our discussions beyond our church community. We could bring eats and share a meal around the table and of course most importantly our ideas and thoughts on selected topics as well. It all sounds so very exciting! Further announcements will be made in this regard.



Visitation from 24 - 26 March 2017:

Bishop Gilbert Filter will lead a team and visit our congregation during the weekend of 24 - 26 March 2017. Our Church Constitution requires a visitation of every congregation once every four years. This is a good regulation, because a visitation allows the congregation to look at itself critically. The intention of such a visitation is to recognise how greatly the congregation is blessed and at the same time to establish areas where improvement could be made.

The visitation team of three members is not team of experts, who know all the answers, but rather a team coming from outside that looks at the congregation. They can possibly see things the congregation no longer perceives. At the same time it can possibly establish whether the congregation is healthy and well run, humanely speaking. The intention is to observe, to discuss, to guide, to encourage and to assist.

A number of documents will be made available to the team for their perusal and there will be meetings held with the pastor, the church committee members and if requested with members of the congregation. The team will also participate in the Sunday Divine Service and Sunday School. A report back will be given to the Church Committee after the service.

Flowers on the Altar:

Convenor: Florence Arends 041 369 0036 or 071 288 9043. Florence calls and arranges with members to ensure flowers are placed on the altar every Sunday. Kindly contact her at the contact details above for further donations of flowers for the altar.



Newsletter:

Please contact Desmond Fillis at 072 399 3574 if you would like to contribute an article or more to the Newsletter.

On the 6th of January **William Christian Gregory Burger** was **born** to his happy parents Craig and Candice Burger, and grandparents Chris and Anthea Burger. Our heartfelt congratulations and we wish you as a family many blessings and much joy with the new little one.



On the 10th of January Karl-Heinz Weber was called home to our Lord. Our heartfelt condolences to his wife Helma Weber and we wish her and all the family and friends God's peace and comfort through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Birthdays February 2017

04-Feb	Jan Heineke
04-Feb	Karla Arends
04-Feb	Melita Bagshaw
04-Feb	Ursula Truter
06-Feb	Rene Koch
07-Feb	Kurt Eichhoff
07-Feb	Rahel-Annabella Edinger
10-Feb	Gisela Schmidt
10-Feb	Molly Trumpp
11-Feb	David Thomson
13-Feb	Joan Cairncross
17-Feb	Brian Arendse
25-Feb	Candice Burger
28-Feb	Gemma Burger
28-Feb	Joan Burgdorf



March

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

Financial Matters 2017

We were richly blessed to have held 4 successful fundraising events in 2016, that contributed most generously to our coffers and we, through the wonderful grace of our dear Lord, could meet our financial obligations and pay our bills locally. There is however a shortfall of R41 900 for levies payable to the Cape Church but we intend to tackle this challenge in 2017.

You will note that there were fewer but more intense and most enjoyable fundraising events held last year. This allowed the coordinators and organisers of the events as well as the participants some breathing space in between events. We are extremely grateful to those members who so willingly assisted and participated and we pray that the enthusiasm to contribute to our success will be even greater in 2017 to take this “little flock” to even greater heights.

The Church Projects Bottle:

Please be reminded of this big bottle on the table in the foyer where you are able to dispense of all your small change and make your pockets lighter! Charlotte Andrews coordinates this effort and the funds collected go towards church projects. We thank those who deposit in this bottle and are happy to announce that the bottle and the flower sales donations contributed a total of R 1 000 collected in 2016. Every little bit helps!

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

Rev Anja Spiske	33 Luke Avenue, (Manse) P.O. Box 5039 pastor@lutheran-pe.org 041-367 1986 H	Springfield Walmer 6065 072 734 9995
Reinhard Walle (Chairman)	4 May Way chairman@lutheran-pe.org 041-360 6769 H	Sunridge Park 6045 063 685 0263
Gerhard Fröhlich (Treasurer)	63 Boundary Rd, treasurer@lutheran-pe.org 041-360 3317 H	Morningside 6025
Henry Newman (Membership)	81 Villiers Road, membership@lutheran-pe.org 041-581 3907 H	Walmer 6070 078 703 7003
Branson Bosman	4 Lonsdale Road warden3@lutheran-pe.org	Mangold Park 6070 082 780 7419
Desmond Fillis	12 Speyers Road warden4@lutheran-pe.org 041-367 2788	Walmer Downs 6070 072 399 3574

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 Henry Newman (membership@lutheran-pe.org) or one of the church wardens.



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 - teilen Sie uns dies bitte schriftlich mit, entweder Henry Newman oder einen anderen Kirchenvorsteher.