

## **LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH** Friedenskirche www.lutheran-pe.org

Apr/May 2015 Lutheran Church Springfield Port Elizabeth - Newsletter No. 2015.2



The Paschal Lamb

This is a symbol of Jesus Christ, who is the sacrificial Lamb of God, who took our place on the cross to atone for all of our sins. The flag with the cross represents Christ's victory over death.

"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" - John 1:29

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

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#### **Planned**

#### **Easter Divine Services**

(2—5 April 2015) (info on page 4)

#### **Easter Breakfast**

Sunday 5 April 2015 After the 07:30 Divine Service

#### **Music Evening**

Friday 8 May 2015 @ 18h00

#### Steak & Bingo Evening

Friday – 31 July 2015 @ 18h30

#### Ladies Morning (Tea and Cake)

Saturday - 8 August 2015 @ 10h00

#### **Snack & Movie Evening**

Friday – 25 September 2015 @ 19h00

#### **Pancake Stall**

Sunday 25 October 2015

#### Bazaar

Saturday 7 November 2015 @ 09:30

#### Carols (Coffee and Cake)

Saturday 19 December 2015 @ 15:00

### Regular

#### Weekly Home Church 19:30

Wednesday evenings (Combined: English and German)

#### Gebetskreis/ Prayer Group



Contact person: Christel Schädler

083 590 4698

Please contact Christel with your prayer needs.

### Children's Services 2015

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month: English @ 09:30

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month: English @ 09:00;

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

Elizabeth Köpke and Kerilee Thompson will lead the English Children's Services.

Contact numbers are:

Elizabeth 083 232 6624 Kerilee 041 371 1793;



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

## 2015 Easter Divine Services (2 April — 5 April)

Maundy Thursday, 2 April 2015
Pastor Arthur Becker

19:30 English Divine Service with Holy Communion

Good Friday, 3 April 2015 Pastor Arthur Becker

09:00 English Divine Service with Holy Communion 10:30 Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl

Easter Sunday, 5 April 2015 Pastor Arthur Becker

07:30 English Divine Service with Holy Communion EASTER SUNDAY BREAKFAST AFTER SERVICE

## Joys and Sorrows

A hearty welcome to our new German speaking members, Susanne Zifreund and Molly Trumpp. We hope that they will truly find a spiritual home in our Congregation and soon get to know more of our members personally. We also encourage them to actively participate in the various activities that take place in our small Congregation, as we really are more like a big family in Christ.

Mr Elroy Bosman passed away on Sunday, 15 March 2015.

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

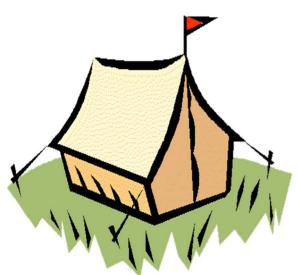
## **CCE YOUTH CAMP**

## AMAZING RACE / SURVIVOR CAMP

# CAPE CHURCH EASTER HOLIDAY SIMULTANEOUS SENIOR AND JUNIOR YOUTH

## 7th to 10th April 2015

At Berlyn Farm near Stutterheim



The camp will be held on the Burger's farm.

Price R250 per person. (Sponsorship can be arranged if necessary: Contact Lyn Burger). Meals are included in the price.

Please bring camping gear, swimming costumes, towels and sturdy hiking shoes.

## Transport and camp volunteers are needed for junior and senior youth



Replies: Contact Lynette Burger

Cell: 0832253532 or burger.lyn@gmail.com

#### From the Pastor's Heart

#### Dear Friends.

"I'm not afraid of the highest heights ... I'm not afraid of dying ..." etc. So goes a song sung by a guy who apparently is not quite happy with the way his girlfriend kisses him – this becomes clear as the song progresses. Well, I suppose that those guys who climb rock faces and who use only their bare hands to do so, really are not afraid of dying. Perhaps the fact that hormones are pumping through their bodies at maximum peak gives them a feeling of immortality. Whatever the case may be, I think most of us, at the very least, do not like to think about the fact that we are going to die sooner or later.

When I think about it, a feeling of melancholy comes over me. I really will have to say "goodbye" to everybody that I know and love, to everything which has given me great pleasure. But then, is this not what happens whenever we look backwards?

Of all the religions I know only Christianity promises a future which has no strings attached. Old Testament Judaism does not promise a future, at least not one that one can look forward to. Basically, when you die you are dead. "No-one remembers you (i.e. God) when he is dead. Who praises you from the grave?" (Psalm 6:5). So, sick people in Old Testament times prayed that God would save them from the grave. What the Psalmist says is this: "God, you like to be praised, don't you? Now, if you let me die, I won't be able to praise you. So, come on, don't let me die".

Islam certainly promises you rewards in heaven for living according to the 5 pillars of Islam, including for being a suicide bomber in order to further what they consider to be a just cause. One is rewarded with plenty of virgins and all that.

Christianity promises a future, a life with God, with the One who made us.

#### From the Pastor's Heart

This promise rests on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In John's Gospel Jesus says: *I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies* (John 11:25).

As Christians we look into the future and see a good future, not because we deserve it, but because our Lord Jesus Christ has secured it for us.

As we get older and the hormones no longer are flowing through our veins at full power and the feeling of immortality goes away, this message gives us hope, gives us something to look forward to. Of course, the feeling of unease that comes over us when we think about death may never leave some of us. Nevertheless, when this happens Jesus Himself tells us that because He lives, we too shall live with Him.

With all this in mind, let us gather together on Easter morning at church and celebrate his resurrection from the dead.

#### "Christ is risen. He is risen indeed."

Sincerely yours in Christ, Pastor em. Arthur Becker.

## Losung für April 2015

### Watchword for April 2015

Wahrlich, dieser ist Gottes Sohn gewesen! Matthäus 27,54 Truly this man was God's Son!

Matthew 27.54

02.04.2015	Maundy Thursday	Divine Service Holy Communion 19:30	John 13.1–15 (34–35)
03.04.2015	Good Friday Karfreitag Tag der Kreuzigung des Herrn	Divine Service 09:00 10.30 Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl	John 19.16–30 Johannes 19, 16–30
05.04.2015	Easter Sunday The Resurrection of Our Lord	Divine Service Holy Communion 07:30	Mark 16.1–8
12.04.2015	Quasimodogeniti First Sunday after Easter	Divine Service Holy Communion 09:30	John 20.19–29
19.04.2015	Misericordias Domini Second Sunday after Easter	Divine Service 09:00	John 10.11–16 (27–30)
S. P.	Miserikordias Domini 2. So. nach Ostern	10.15 Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl	Johannes 10, 11–16 (27–30)
26.04.2015	Jubilate Third Sunday after Easter	Family Service Holy Communion 09:30	John 15.1–8

#### Losung für Mai 2015

Watchword for May 2015

Alles vermag ich durch ihn, der mir Kraft gibt. Philipper 4,13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Philippians 4.13

03.05.2015	Kantate 4. So. nach Ostern	Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl 09:30	Matthäus 11,25–30
10.05.2015	Rogate 5th Sunday after Easter	Divine Service Holy Communion 09:30	John 16.23b–28. (29–32)33
17.05.2015	Exaudi: Sunday after Ascension	Divine Service 09:00	John 15.26–16,4
S P	Exaudi 6. Sonntag nach Ostern	10.15 Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl	Johannes 15, 26–16,4
24.05.2015	Pentecost Whitsunday	Divine Service Holy Communion 09:30	John 14.23–27
31.05.2015	Trinity Sunday	Family Service Holy Communion 09:30	John 3.1–8(9–15)

## From the Bishop's Office

#### **Church Council:**

Church Council greatly appreciates your participation in 'The Process of Listening.' A word of thanks goes to the team from ECCLESIA, at the University of Stellenbosch, for their guidance and for compiling the final report. This will help us as a church to constructively and prayerfully move forward, seeking to understand better what God is calling us to do next.

The second meeting between members of the ELCSA (N-T) Church Council and us took place on 22-23 November 2014 in Harburg in KZN to further discuss the possible merger of the two churches. The following statement is a summary of the discussion at the meeting:

- 1. The main aim of any Church structure should be to enable congregations to better fulfil their calling at grass roots level.
- 2. The task team agreed that marriage (merger) between Cape and NT is possible and can work.
- There are no significant legal impediments to a merger.
- 4. The bishops shall start trying out aspects of co-operation.
- Finances:
- ▶ Both Churches are currently covering their costs.
- Current investigations suggest that a merger will not immediately become significantly cheaper nor significantly more expensive.
- The approach to raising income is different between the churches and will need further discussions:
  - \* Collections in ELSCSA (NT) result in additional ministries. The Cape Church does not have compulsory collections. Most collections are used for the congregations' annual budget requirements.
  - \* The approach to solidarity is very different in the Cape from the NT. In the NT it is given on a voluntary basis and raises a significant amount. In the Cape it is part of the congregations' levy and only plays a small part.
  - \* In NT some costs are borne by congregations, which in the Cape are funded centrally (such as travel to pastor's conventions, synods and circuit events). Thus the direct cost impact on the congregations is different.

## From the Bishop's Office

The task team currently finds no apparent reason that merger should not be aimed at for 2017. Synods in 2015 would have to deliberate and decide on this. This implies that all relevant information needs to be ready for the 2015 Synods, so that informed discussions and possible decisions can be taken.

#### Synod 2015:

The First Ordinary Meeting of the XIV<sup>th</sup> Synod of the Cape Church has been convened to be held on 29-31 May 2015, at the St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, King William's Town. Our theme will be on Stewardship. Let us all prayerfully journey together as we prepare to meet as God's children, to listen and deliberate on the way forward as his church.

#### Personnel:

- Pastor Felix Meylahn has started his ministry in the Stellenbosch and Somerset West congregation. We wish him and his family strength to settle in this new environment. He was inducted in a service on 1 February 2015 in Stellenbosch.
- Pastor Rüdiger Lutz's farewell was celebrated on 15 February 2015 at St Andrews in East London. He has relocated to Vryheid in KZN and started his ministry in the Michaelis congregation on 1 March 2015. We wish him and Silke God's blessing for the new challenges that lie ahead.
- Pastor em. Klaus Pieper and his wife Ingrid have been seconded for 6 months by the EDK to reach out to the German Tourists in and around Somerset West. We thank them and the congregation for taking care of this important ministry.

#### Vacancies:

- 1. Pastor em. Arthur Becker will serve the Friedenskirche congregation in Port Elizabeth as locum tennens until the end of 2015 when Pastor Anja Spiske arrives to fill this vacancy.
- St Andrews (East London), St Paul's (Macleantown) and St Paul's (Stutterheim) will be served by various retired Pastors during the vacancy. Both Pastors D. Trumpelmann and H-P von Fintel will share the responsibility as locum tennens.
- 3. St Paulus congregation in Bloemfontein will be served by Pastor Nils Rohwer as locum tennens.

#### <u>Lutheran Co-ordination Committee (LCC):</u>

In an endeavour to re-activate the LCC, a convention for the pastors from the Moravian Church, ELCSA and ELCSA (Cape Church) took place 1-3 February 2015 in Malmesbury. This will hopefully contribute towards closer co-operation within the Lutheran body on a local level.

#### The Luther Rose

The Luther Rose, also known as the Luther Seal, is easily the most recognized symbol for Lutheranism, and for good reason. Martin Luther personally oversaw the creation of this coat of arms in the year 1519. It provides a beautiful summary of his faith, a faith that is common to all Christians, of every place and every time. Here is how Luther explained the meaning of his seal.



"Grace and peace from the Lord.

As you desire to know whether my painted seal,

which you sent to me, has hit the mark, I shall answer most amiably and tell you my original thoughts and reason about why my seal is a symbol of my theology.

The first should be a black cross in a heart, which retains its natural colour, so that I myself would be reminded that faith in the Crucified saves us. 'For one who believes from the heart will be justified' (Romans 10:10). Although it is indeed a black cross, which mortifies and which should also cause pain, it leaves the heart in its natural colour. It does not corrupt nature, that is, it does not kill but keeps alive. 'The just shall live by faith' (Romans 1:17) but by faith in the Crucified.

Such a heart should stand in the middle of a white rose, to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace. In other words, it places the believer into a white, joyous rose, for this faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27).

That is why the rose should be white and not red, for white is the colour of the spirits and the angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12). Such a rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that such joy in spirit and faith is a beginning of the heavenly future joy, which begins already, but is grasped in hope, not yet revealed.

And around this field is a golden ring, symbolizing that such blessedness in Heaven lasts forever and has no end. Such blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and goods, just as gold is the most valuable, most precious and best metal. This is my compendium theoligae [summary of theology].

I have wanted to show it to you in good friendship, hoping for your appreciation. May Christ, our beloved Lord, be with your spirit until the life hereafter.

Amen."

## Liturgical Colours

#### The church year is colourful

The church year, which begins with the 1<sup>st</sup> Advent and ends with Eternity Sunday takes us on a journey, celebrating special festive days or festive seasons. Each Sunday we are reminded of stories and symbols of our Christian belief and this is also expressed by specific colours. At Friedenskirche we cover the altar, the lectern and the pulpit with special cloths (vestments). The basic colour of these refers to the particular season in our church year and what it conveys. When the pastor wears a white robe (Alba), a stole in the corresponding colour is used.

#### White

Strictly speaking, white and black are not colours, but they indicate the important key figures of the church year.

The colour white basically indicates Jesus Christ. White, the colour of light and clarity suits Him, He being the "light of the world". White is also the colour of joy.

At Christmas time it commemorates the birth of Jesus and the "great joy which shall be to all people." Epiphany (6 January), and on the last Sunday after Epiphany, white indicates the joy of God's appearance (epiphany) on earth in Jesus Christ.

From Easter until the Saturday before Pentecost white reminds us of the light of life, which manifests itself in the resurrection of Jesus Christ which happened for all people.

The Feast of the Holy Trinity is celebrated on the Sunday after Pentecost. Here God himself is celebrated as Creator, Son and Holy Spirit. The White of the heavenly perfection is also the joy of God's presence in this world.

The metallic colours used in heraldry, gold (or yellow as replacement) and silver are not part of the liturgical colours of the Lutheran church. They have to be understood as a particularly festive variant of the colour white.

## Birthdays

## April 2015

04-Apr	Sigi Sauer
05-Apr	Gunnar Gädke
09-Apr	Branson Bosman
10-Apr	Liz Tessendorf
11-Apr	Gisela Ruppelt
11-Apr	Kerilee Thompson
16-Apr	Hans Rohwer
19-Apr	Wayne Gary Böttcher
23-Apr	Neil Anthony Haschick
26-Apr	Peter Koch
27-Apr	Mercia Fillis

## May 2015

03-May	Liane Krieg
07-May	Susanne Zifreund
14-May	Ayesha van Wyk
15-May	Geoff Andrews
22-May	Marion Gädke
23-May	Sonja Savini
25-May	Roshni Angi Bosman
30-May	Erwin Gehring
30-May	Hildegard Dreier

## 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 <u>write</u> 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 2015

**Geoff Andrews** 45 Kent Road, North End PE 6001 chairman@lutheran-pe.org (Committee Chairman) 041-484 1861 H 041-365 1835 W 083 287 4199 041-364 1676 FAX **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** 248 Circular Drive. Lorraine PE 6070 warden3@lutheran-pe.org 041-368 5976 H 076 134 3333 **Colin Lentz** 13 Miles Avenue Charlo 6070 warden6@lutheran-pe.org 041-368 4463 081 353 9479 **Henry Newman** Walmer PE 6070 81 Villiers Road, warden2@lutheran-pe.org 041-581 3907 H 078 703 7003 **Lionel Sonnenberger** Cotswold 6045 18 Finch Street. warden4@lutheran-pe.org 041-365 6249 H 082 770 9544