



LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH

Friedenskirche

Evangelical - Lutheran Church Springfield Port Elizabeth

www.lutheran-pe.org

No. 2018.1

Newsletter / Gemeindebrief

February / March 2018



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

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From the Pastor's Heart

A Note of Grace on Deuteronomy 2:7

Surely the LORD your GOD has been with you in all your undertakings; he knows your going through this great wilderness. These forty years the LORD your GOD has been with you; you have lacked nothing.

GOD IS FAITHFUL!

The words from this special verse from the continuous reading for January 2018 in Deuteronomy has touched my heart. Because we as a congregation were also privileged to experience that God has been with us in all our undertakings, not only in the past year but in all the many years that we have existed as a Lutheran congregation in Port Elizabeth. GOD, in the same manner that HE has lead and sustained His people Israel in the desert all those years, has also lead and sustained us, His congregation in the many years of our existence. I find, that these words in Deuteronomy are wonderful and promising words that can give us courage and strength also for this new year ahead of us, as we continue on our journey together "in the wilderness".

It is apparent that the people of Israel have often given their feelings

of fear and worry more credit than they did the GOD who has faithfully been at their side and has time and again blessed them on their way. It was very characteristic of the people of Israel to listen first to the voices of fear and worry; also to the voice of its own strength and ability. They did not orientate themselves according to the experiences they have made with God's faithfulness and His strong arm saving and helping them, time and again. How many detours had to be made, how much suffering to be endured, because they did not listen to God and trust in His Word? Is this not also the case in our own lives as individuals and in our congregational life too? How much of God's protection and care did we experience and yet have mistrusted? We have had our fair share of difficulties, worries and concerns, and when these threaten to overtake us, our memories of God's faithfulness tend to be rather short.

What is wonderful about this verse in Deuteronomy 2:7 and in fact the whole of chapter 2 is that as you read it, it becomes clear, that GOD goes after us even and especially in times when we are facing diffi-

From the Pastor's Heart

culties, even when these difficulties come to pass by our own fault.

That is really amazing to me! And it is a wonderful comfort as well as a great encouragement for us: God does not let go of us or His promises for us. He sticks by us, even when we mess up! In the German translation verse 7b reads: God has taken your great wandering through the wilderness **to heart!**

God not only knows about our difficulties in life and in faith, He even takes them to heart. That means no difficulty or struggle that we go through is “for nothing”, or “meaningless”, or “aimless” when GOD is in it with us. True, we might wander along some detours and suffer the consequences, but even those experiences GOD is able to turn around into blessing and growth. That is what He has done for Israel in the wilderness. That is what He does for us even to this day.

We have all the more reason to trust in GOD's ongoing faithfulness, since Jesus Christ came on the scene and is now the One who walks beside us on our journey through this “wilderness” we call life. Christ has already reached the destination for us. In fact, Christ is our destination! Our fallibilities and

failures are not what define us and they are not decisive. The decisive factor in our personal lives and in our congregational life is GOD'S FAITHFULNESS! It is GOD's Faithfulness that will lead us onward on our journey also in this new year and the same faithfulness will bring us closer to the goal. Let us be men, women and children of HOPE, and steadfastly continue to ask GOD to strengthen our faith, our courage and our hope in His Word. He knows about our going through this great wilderness. Surely, the God who has been with us in all our undertakings knows what we need for the next leg of our journey and will continue to journey with us.

Prayer: Lord, our God, thank you for taking our journey on your heart and that you promise to bring us to the goal through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, - not because of us, but in spite of us and because of You and your great Faithfulness. Strengthen our faith in your Word, that you are always with us and that you will continue to lead and guide us in your steadfast love and grace.
Amen.



Summary of the AGM

The AGM, held after the Divine Service at 10:30 in the Church Hall, was attended by 22 voting members and 6 apologies were received.

The Pastor's and Chairman's reports dealt with the wonderful blessings received during the past year, as well as the challenges for the new year, all summarized in the watchword for this year from Revelation 21:6 *"To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life"* and the words of the song sung at the beginning and end of the meeting: *"We've a Story to tell to the nations, that shall turn their hearts to the right; and a Story of truth and mercy, a Story of peace and light..."*

A very gratifying development during the meeting was the nomination and unanimous acceptance by the meeting of 4 new church wardens and the re-election of 3 current wardens for a new 2-year term of office. The Church Committee now consists of:

Newly elected:

Auke Brand

Elizabeth Köpke

Sheldine Septoe

Sicilia Welcome

Re-elected:

Desmond Fillis,

Henry Newman

Reinhard Walle

2nd year of previous term:

Gerhard Fröhlich

After presentation of the financial statements for 2017, it was announced that financial issues and challenges that affect the budget in 2018 will be discussed at a Committee Meeting early in February to which the Bishop and the Treasurer of the Cape Church are invited. A Special General Meeting will be held afterwards.

Exciting innovations for 2018 are:

- ◆ The implementation of plans for a music school (recorder, piano, organ) in the congregation; incorporation of other instruments in the Services (trumpet, guitar etc.)
- ◆ Further developments in youth work with the continued development of the mezzanine area for young people;
- ◆ Pastor Anja's proposed involvement in Lay Preachers' training;
- ◆ Spreading of the congregational workload via an organized system of task teams.

Wow, **this past year 2017** has flown by particularly fast! But it also has been another year of God's faithfulness and grace and as a congregation we can thankfully look back on a blessed year where God has carried and sustained us through all the highs and lows we went through. Now the year 2018 is already well underway. It is a good year to be the church of Christ, because Christ himself says: ***To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life (Revelation 21:6).*** This reminds us, not to focus on what we do not have, but to stay focused on what is already given to us without cost, and to share it with the thirsty in the world.

This water of life can be found and shared at various "watering holes" in our congregation, starting with our **Divine Services**, where we hear this Promise of God being proclaimed to us and are blessed in turn to share this promise with a thirsty world. Our Divine Services and receiving Christ himself in Holy Communion is the very heart of our congregation and everything else we do feeds from this central oasis. The rhythm of English and German Divine Services has been well kept.

No Divine Service and, in fact, no household of God is complete without our children. This became especially clear on Christmas Eve where our Children and Young Adults blessed us with a delightful Nativity Play that warmed, I think, every heart. Thank you so much! We want to make sure that there's a message for the little ones in church during Family Services on every last Sunday of the month, as well as in the time they spend with aunty Elizabeth Koepke and a Bible Story in the **Children's Church** room on every second Sunday of the month.

Our **House Church**, a group of about 15-20 people meet each Wednesday evening at 19h00 in various homes to dwell in the Word and sing together. This mid-week get together is another important watering hole, as it is meaningful and encouraging to our daily life. House Church is open to anyone who would like to join in. In the year of Reformation Celebrations we also met in the church center each month for a "Table Talk" with a bring and share meal. Sharing and caring is what helps us to grow in our faith and together as a loving community.

AGM 21.01.2018

Open Door has become an important ministry in our congregation to a group of 10-15 people of our senior members. They meet every last Tuesday of the month at 10:00 in the church center to sing songs, listen to a spiritual message and pray. This is followed by a time of fellowship with a cup of tea or coffee and some delicious cake.

Recently we started a get together called **C.O.F.F.E.E. with God** (C.O.F.F.E.E. = Christ Offers Forgiveness for Everyone Everywhere) and we meet every first Sunday of the month from 18:00 to 20:00 for coffee and a discussion about a bible text. On average 4 people have been coming (not all young adults) and we hope that this initiative will grow as we keep on inviting and encouraging our **Young Adults** to be part and more active in a sharing and caring faith community. They are overwhelmed by what life demands from them in terms of studies, work, career and family. We are trying to create a safe space for them to come together and talk about life and faith, a space where they feel comfortable, accepted and nourished. CCE has granted us funds for this task, for which we are very grateful. Work has started in refurbishing the mezzanine to

Pastor's Report (Extract)

create a comfortable living space as part of the sanctuary.

Our **Church Committee** has really been struggling this year to keep everything together with only 5 members. Great effort has been put in to involve members more in helping and supporting with the various things that need to be done in our congregation.

Our **Choir** was led by the very capable and enthusiastic hands of Mercia Fillis, who kept our hearts light and our voices oiled to praise God in song. And it's always a great blessing when our Divine Services are enhanced and beautified by various instruments accompanying us at the **Organ, Piano** and with **Guitars** and **Brass Instruments**. **Music** is a wonderful way of serving and blessing in our Divine Services and we have much more potential and talent within the ranks of our congregation to spread out this wonderful ministry. We would like to start a music school in 2018 for our young ones in learning the recorder and, for those who are interested, piano lessons as well. Many thanks to our organist, Brian Arends, who is willing to spend time and expertise with us in the field of music.

One of the highlights of the year 2017 was the **Visitation**, where our congregation was visited by a team and our Bishop G. Filter. It was a fruitful weekend of discussion and fellowship which highlighted some key aspects of who we are as a congregation and how we express ourselves. Words like: fellowship, togetherness, joy, accepting, caring, warmth and many more express what it is to be a member in and of this body of Christ. Another key aspect that was discussed and which I would like to highlight here was the regular reference made to "we are a small congregation". Bishop Filter asked us what is meant by that statement, if there are 195 members on the list. Why mainly 'see' the core group and describe it as small? Some introspection is needed and the question asked: Have we lost sight of these members? Why do we just accept that they are fringe members and leave them there, instead of engaging more actively with them to find out why they are where they are and also what their needs are. Listening and hearing are important. The challenge put to us is to find out who they are! Bishop Filter suggested that we start a **Prayer Min-**

istry for all members of the congregation, allocating the names of people we need to pray for, whether or not they are known to us. When possible an effort should be made to introduce ourselves to the person. We have a **Wonderful Promise from God** to guide us in this new year 2018. He will give us, the thirsty, water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Let us ask God to help us to trust in His Promise, to help us see where and in what new ways He wants to bring new life, deeper meaning and a living hope into our lives and into the lives of others. May God bless and guide us through this new year 2018 and fill our lives with new hope and meaning with each endeavor we undertake in His name.

Yours truly in Christ,
Anja Spiske

Statistics

	2017	2016*
Families	116	111
Members	186	178
thereof children	21	20
Main Services	68	69
Participants average	36.4	31.8
with Holy Communion	50	56
Participants average	34.6	29.3
Devotions	7	5
Participants average	18.7	

* Figures 2016 revised after visitation

On 12 December 2017 the Church Committee held the last meeting for the year. I would like to share with you an extract of Pastor Anja's devotion from the meeting of that day. It was based on **Zechariah 4:1-7** and his visions. *"The prophet Zechariah sees visions about how the temple of the Lord is to be reconstructed and how the leadership of the temple is to lead. The two Messiah figures, one priestly and one royal, are to lead the people of God. But they should not lead by their power or might, but through the Spirit of God. They stand in the service of God and His temple. Their responsibility is to take care of the building of God's house, the temple, and the people of God. The oil of the two olive trees is needed to keep the light on the lampstand burning. The lamp that stands in the middle of the temple is made of gold and has seven separate lamps, each of which has seven flames, : a picture of perfection and light – perfect light – God. ..."*

At our last AGM I spoke of our congregation finally having a resident Pastor once again in the form of Anja Spiske. **Pastor Anja** has continued to be a blessing and source of spiritual guidance to our Congregation and a help to community members in need. With her youthful enthusiasm and drive, she has

indeed been a ray of sunshine and an inspiration to many of us.

In the past year, your committee has come through a challenging 12 months, but in the knowledge that **God is with us**, we have trusted in His Love and Grace to have led us and the congregation we serve, onward throughout the year.

I would like to thank **committee members** for their support, hard work and dedication to our Congregation. Working with such a committed group has been a real blessing. The often jovial, easy-going, yet focused approach has made our meetings and working together something that I feel privileged to have been a part of.

2017 was once again an eventful yet exciting and very special year for our congregation.

On the 12th of February Rev Ben Fourie of the **Bible Society** was invited by our congregation to deliver the Sermon and to share background and information on the activities of the Bible Society in spreading the Word of God.

2017 was the year of the celebration of **500 years of the**

Reformation. We compiled a series of informative leaflets in English and German entitled: “**Simply Lutheran**, The Reformation: 500 Years of History”. On the 15th of October, the combined **CCE Choir** from our sister Border Congregations visited us and joined in celebrating Harvest Thanksgiving. It was a great opportunity to get to know each other better. The celebration year culminated with a CCE Lutheran **Reformation Service** held on 29th October at St John's Church, King Williams Town. A number of our Friedenskirche Congregation joined our Choir members and together with the CCE Choir, attended the 500 year celebration Service.

On 28 and 29 August, **Patrick Keifert** from the *Luther Seminary* in the USA visited our congregation to give us a talk on dwelling in the word, spiritual discernment, and focus for missional church.

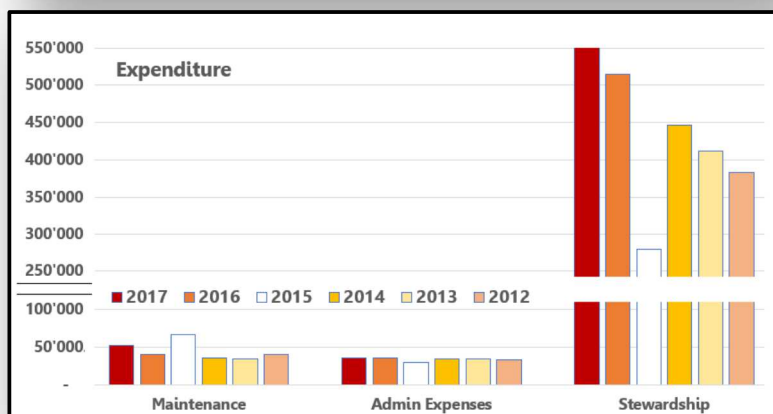
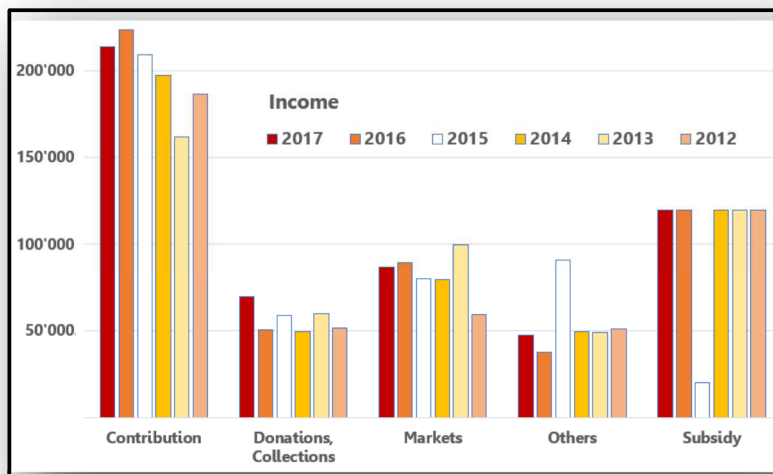
To name some **Special Projects** of the year 2017: the Children's Room Enhancement, Moms and Little Children Area, The Upper Room (mezzanine), Regular **Maintenance and Refurbishment** of the Church buildings, facilities and Manse are an absolute necessity. Assistance from congregation members can be in the form of making your skills available, or sourcing materials required for a project. Alternatively,

assistance can be provided by considering financial sponsorship to a project in whole, or in part. In order to get a better overview of our maintenance challenges, we are in the process of drawing up a **Five Year Maintenance** plan for repairs to be carried out in order of priority subject to availability of funds. Should you, or someone you know are able to assist in any way, please make contact with Geoff Andrews or Reinhard Walle.

Activities, among others: annual *Easter Market* on 8.4.2017, *Ladies Morning* at 12.8.17 with the theme Rock'n Roll, *Bingo Café* a great family fun afternoon and the *Christmas Market*. The much needed **Belltower Refurbishment** was completed this year. Gerry and Christa West were instrumental in finding sponsorship for this project and getting a suitable contractor to do the work. In addition, Gerry and Christa have been doing some fundraising throughout the year that has realised approx R3000. Thank you both for this positive initiative.

Financials

Finally I wish to stress that in 2016 we were not able to keep our heads above water, and despite the challenges we faced in 2017, we again found ourselves with a deficit.

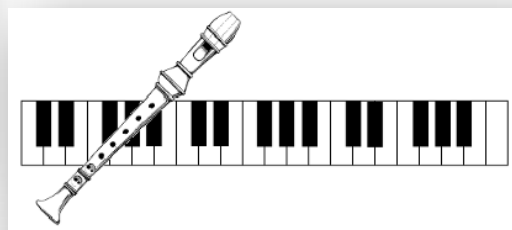


We, as a congregation, have a full Cape Church Levy responsibility because we continue to have a full pastoral post. Committee discussions will be held with Bishop Gilbert Filter on 10th February 2018 and later at a subsequent Special General Meeting. The SGM date will be announced and published on our church media sites.

Yours
Reinhard Walle

Music School

We would like to introduce a Music School for all our children to learn to play the recorder and, for those who are interested, also the piano. The lessons will be taught by our organist and retired music teacher, Mr. Brian Arends. We are thinking of offering classes on Thursday afternoons from 14h00 to 15h30.



This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to learn to play a musical instrument and to kindle a love for music in them. If you're an adult and are interested to join in you are also more than welcome!



For more information please contact
Mr. Brian Arends 084 232 3533
or Anja Spiske 072 734 9995.

Planned

Marketplace:

Easter Market

Saturday, 24 March 18

Christmas Market

Saturday, 3 November 18

Lenten Devotions

Every Wednesday evening at

19:00, starting on Ash-

Wednesday, 14 Feb. till 21

March 2018.

Carols, Coffee & Cake

Third Advent

Sunday, 15 December 17

Dates to be announced :

Ladies Morning

Café Bingo

Movie Evening



Regular

Weekly House Church

Wednesday evenings

at 19:00 Combined:

English / German



Open Door

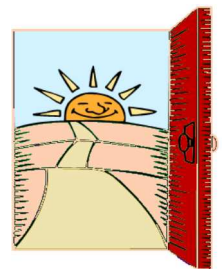
Last Tuesday of each

month at 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 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

Watchword for this month:
The word is very near to you;
it is in your mouth and in your heart
for you to observe.
Deuteronomy 30.14

Monatsspruch:
Es ist das Wort ganz nahe bei dir,
in deinem Munde und in deinem
Herzen, dass du es tust.
5. Moses 30,14

So 04 February 2018 Sexagesimae: 2. Sonntag vor der Passionszeit
Sexagesima: Second Sunday before Lent

9:30 D Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl)
(2. Korinther (11,18.23b–30)12,1–10



18:00 E C.O.F.F.E.E with GOD
(2 Corinthians(11.18.23b–30)12, 1–10)



Su 11 February 2018 Estomihi: Sunday before Lent

9:30 E Divine Service with Holy Communion
(Amos 5.21–24)



Su 18 February 2018 Invocavit: First Sunday in Lent
Invokavit: 1. Sonntag der Passionszeit

9:00 E Divine Service
(2 Corinthians 6.1–10)



10:15 D Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl
(2. Korinther 6,1–10)



Su 25 February 2018 Reminiscere: Second Sunday in Lent

9:30 E Family Service with Holy Communion
(Isaiah 5.1–7)



Lenten Devotions

We d 14 February 2018	E	19:00
We d 21 February 2018	E	19:00
We d 28 February 2018	E	19:00
We d 07 March 2018	E	19:00
We d 14 March 2018	E	19:00
We d 21 March 2018	E	19:00

Watchword for this month
 Jesus said,
 'It is finished.'
 John 19.30

Monatsspruch:
 Jesus Christus spricht:
 Es ist vollbracht!
 Johannes 19,30

So 04 März 2018**Okuli: 3. Sonntag der Passionszeit**

9:30 D Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl
 (1. Petrus 1,(13–17) 18–21)

**Su 11 March 2018****Laetare: Fourth Sunday in Lent**

9:30 E Divine Service
 (Philippians 1.15–21)

**Su 18 March 2018****Judica: 5th Sunday in Lent**

9:00 E Divine Service
 (Numbers 21.4–9)

**Su 25 March 2018****Palmarum: 6th Sunday in Lent**

9:30 E Family Service with Holy Communion
 (Isaiah 50.4–9)

**Th 29 March 2018****Maundy Thursday**

19:00 E Agape Service
 (1 Corinthians 10.16–17)

**Fr 30 March 2018****Good Friday / Karfreitag**

9:30 ED Divine Service
 (Hebrews 9.15.26b–28 / Hebräer 9,15.26b–28)

**Su 1 April 2018****Easter Sunday**

9:30 ED Service with Holy Communion
 (1 Samuel 2.1–2, 6–8a / 1. Samuel 2,1–2,6–8a)





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
Auke Brand	78 Kabega Road warden3@lutheran-pe.org	Vikingvale 6070 41-360 8881
Desmond Fillis	12 Speyers Road warden4@lutheran-pe.org 041-367 2788	Walmer Downs 6070 072 399 3574
Elizabeth Köpke	33 Walker Gardens warden5@lutheran-pe.org	Sherwood 6025 083 232 6624
Sheldine Septoe	Unit 45, Pine Creek Village warden6@lutheran-pe.org 041-367 2788	Fairview 6070 083 232 6624
Sicilia Welcome	13 Loton Street, Young Park warden2@lutheran-pe.org	Port Elizabeth 6001

**Contributions, Donations****Kirchbeiträge, Spenden**

Please make your payments to the church by means of a deposit into the church's bank account or via electronic fund transfer (EFT) and provide your details under the reference section. You can also pay cash at the church or put an envelope in the collection box

Verwenden Sie bitte für Zahlungen an die Kirche das untenstehende Bankkonto (Einzahlungen am Schalter oder Überweisungen), als Referenz Namen und Verwendungszweck angeben. Sie können auch in der Kirche bar zahlen, oder einen Umschlag in den Klingelbeutel legen.

Bank: First National Bank,
Account: 534 200 32476

Branch Code: 211217 **Walmer Branch**
Account Name: Lutheran Church Springfield

Birthdays



04-Feb	Jan Heineke
04-Feb	Karla Arends
04-Feb	Melita Bagshaw
04-Feb	Ursula Truter
06-Feb	Rene Koch
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 Burger
28-Feb	Gemma Bürger
28-Feb	Joan Burgdorf

Geburtstage



03-Mar	Reinhard Mahlert
04-Mar	Igor Lokotsch
08-Mar	Horst van Biljon
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

Joy and Sorrow

On 12th January 2018 our member Udo Dreier passed away. He was buried on 19th January 2018 in Uitenhage.



Freud und Leid

May our Lord bless and comfort family and friends during this time of grief.

Ordination of Pastor Martha Weich

The Ordination Celebration of Pastor Martha Weich took place on the 10th of December 2017 in Stutterheim. It was a wonderful and blessed day with over 140 people attending this special service and sharing in the joy of this very special occasion. Bishop Gilbert Filter led us in the Service and the CCE Choir also blessed us with some

beautiful singing. We thank and praise God for calling and affirming another one of His faithful servants to serve in fulltime ministry in His church and wish Pastor Martha His richest blessings in strength, courage, sustenance and grace as she ministers to God's people in the border area.

Bishop Filter ordaining Pastor Martha, assisted by Pastors Anja and Hans-Peter, and Rev Ian



Pastor Anja preaching on Isaiah 64+65



Diaconic Work / Mission / Outreach

Our Mercy Mission Cupboard

We wish to heartily thank all who have been donating food, clothing, toiletries and money during the past years.

There are so many people who are less fortunate than ourselves and your generosity has helped us to assist those in need.

Apart from the desperate ones who come knocking at the church and manse door, we are able to support, with your help, two centres working in communities to support the needy:

- Wabamkela Educare
- Vistarus Mission Station

Diaconic Work / Mission / Outreach



One centre is the Wabamkela Educare and Feeding Scheme that operates from Witbooi Street, Walmer Township catering for 30 pre-school children under the leadership of Ms Juliet Watt.



The children of Wabamkela Pre School at their Christmas party 2017

Then there is the Vistarus Mission Station, that takes care of the destitute and downtrodden. We recently received an email from Ms Nadia Jacobs from Vistarus on behalf of the residents and management, thanking the members of the church for the variety of goods that were delivered there.

She explained in her letter there were currently 320 people residing at Vistarus, which included 83 children and they were in constant need of the very goods that the church so thoughtfully provided.

The people who are taken in at Vistarus stay on for a while and join the programme until they have enough confidence to leave and move on with their lives. New people therefore constantly move in and others move out.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could continue donating as you have done in the past so that we can continue to support the needy.

Was Frau Pastorin am Herzen liegt

5. Buch Mose 2,7 - Gedanken zum Vers

Denn der HERR, dein Gott, hat dich gesegnet in allen Werken deiner Hände. Er hat dein Wandern durch diese große Wüste auf sein Herz genommen. Vierzig Jahre ist der HERR, dein Gott, bei dir gewesen. An nichts hast du Mangel gehabt.

Gott ist treu!

Dieser besondere Vers aus der fortlaufenden Lesung für Januar 2018 im 5. Buch Mose hat mich besonders gerührt. Denn auch wir als Gemeinde durften erfahren, dass Gott die Werke unserer Hände gesegnet hat und bei uns gewesen ist, nicht nur im letzten Jahr, sondern die ganzen Jahre in denen wir als eine Lutherische Gemeinde in Port Elizabeth bestehen. So, wie Gott sein Volk Israel in der Wüste begleitet und erhalten hat, so hat er auch uns, seine Gemeinde, begleitet und erhalten in den vielen Jahren, die wir schon Gemeinde sind. Ich finde, es sind wunderschöne und verheißungsvolle Worte, die uns Mut und Kraft bescheren am Anfang eines neuen Jahres, in dem wir unsere „Wüstenwanderung“ gemeinsam fortsetzen.

Allerdings ist es so, dass das Volk Israel in seiner Wüstenwanderung oft der Angst und Sorge mehr gehorchte als dem Gott, der sie im-

mer wieder gesegnet und ihnen geholfen hat. Das Volk gehorcht zuerst der Angst und Sorge, und dann der eigenen Kraft mehr als der Zusage Gottes, dass ER mit ihnen ist. Sie richten sich auch nicht nach den Erfahrungen, die sie mit den Zusagen Gottes gemacht haben. Wie viel Umwege mussten gegangen, wie viel Leid erfahren werden, weil sie nicht auf IHN hörten, IHM nicht vertrauten, sondern sich selbst zum Maßstab machten? Das kennen wir von uns auch.

Woran hat uns Angst gehindert und wohin hat uns unsere Selbstüberschätzung gebracht? Das alles zieht sich doch auch durch unser Leben, persönlich und im gemeinsamen Leben als Gemeinde. Wie viel Schutz und Fürsorge haben wir erlebt und doch seiner Fürsorge misstraut?

Das wunderbare an 5. Mose 2, 7 und dem ganzen Kapitel 2 ist, dass es deutlich wird, dass Gott uns dort besonders nachgeht, wenn wir es schwer haben, auch wenn es auf Grund eigener Schuld ist. Das ist ein wunderbarer Trost! Und eine großartige Ermutigung! Denn an nichts leiden wir mehr, als an einer Situation die schwer ist, aus welchem Grund auch immer. Es wäre doch wunderbar, wenn Gott aus-

Was Frau Pastorin am Herzen liegt

gerechnet dann meine und unsere Situation besonders in sein Herz nähme. Dann bedeutet es ja, dass eigentlich nichts mehr schiefgehen kann – letztlich. Mit Gott kann es kein “umsonst“, kein “sinnlos“ oder “ziellos“ geben – wenn ER mit uns ist, gehen wir gemeinsam manchen Schlenker, zugegeben, aber auch den wird Gott letztlich zum Guten nutzen können. Ja, ER wird auch daraus Segen machen! Das hat er damals für das Volk Israel getan. Und durch Jesus müssten wir heute erst recht darauf vertrauen können! Wir haben Jesus an unserer Seite, der für uns das Ziel erreicht hat – besser: Er ist ja unser Ziel! Unser Versagen ist letztlich nicht das Entscheidende, sondern Gottes

Treue! Diese Treue wird uns auch in diesem neuen Jahr begleiten, segnen, führen und uns näher ans Ziel bringen! Lasst uns Gott beharrlich bitten, dass ER uns unsere Hoffnung, Zuversicht und unser Vertrauen auf sein Wort stärke und in unseren Herzen festige und gründe.

Gebet: Herr, unser Gott, hab Dank, dass du uns in dein Herz schließt; hab Dank, dass du uns in Jesus zum Ziel bringen wirst, nicht wegen uns, sondern um deinetwegen. Stärke unser Vertrauen auf dein Wort, dass DU immer bei uns bist und dass DU die Werke unserer Hände segnen willst.

Amen.

Nativity Play Christmas Eve 2017



Friedenskirche / Church of Peace - Prayer Cards

Dear Friends!

Scripture teaches us about the importance of prayer and invites us to pray for ourselves and for others, especially fellow believers and leaders.

We would like to continue in actively praying for one another in the form of prayer cards. Every one of us needs prayer!

The initiative requires that every participant is prepared to spend a short time in his/her daily quiet time praying for a congregation member. The following can be used as a guide when we pray for others, especially those congregation members we do not know very well or hardly even know at all.

- Be thankful for their faith and changed lives (Colossians 1:3)
- Ask God to help them know what he wants them to do (Colossians 1:9)
- Ask God to give them deep spiritual understanding (Colossians 1:9)
- Ask God to help them live for Him (Colossians 1:10)
- Ask God to give them strength for endurance (Colossians 1:11)
- Ask God to fill them with joy, strength and thankfulness (Colossians 1:11)

We pray that many will take part in this initiative.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Anja

Prayer Cards February 2018

1 Feb	Angloher	Kyle	15 Feb	Harmse	Michelle
2 Feb	Arends	Robin	16 Feb	Heineke	Esther
3 Feb	Bosman	Roshni	17 Feb	Jachens	Stefan
4 Feb	Brand	Isa	18 Feb	Koch	Brunhilde
5 Feb	Breitfeld	Leona	19 Feb	Koepke	Justin
6 Feb	Bride	Anne	20 Feb	Lentz	Karla
7 Feb	Burgdorf-Fowie	Margrit	21 Feb	Letsholonyane	Reabetswe
8 Feb	Burger	Craig	22 Feb	Lokotsch	Dieter
9 Feb	Burger	Warrick	23 Feb	Maechtle	Jordan
10 Feb	Cairncross	Joy	24 Feb	Mittermaier	Rosemarie
11 Feb	Coko	Arowa	25 Feb	Paetzold	Christine
12 Feb	Daniels	Anthea	26 Feb	Rohrmoser	Ruth
13 Feb	Deutschmann	Chad	27 Feb	Rudolph	Sydney
14 Feb	Dreier	Debra Lee	28 Feb	Ruppelt	Gisela

News from the Office of the Bishop

Partnership for Missional Churches, Listening Process

In August and September 2017, we had the privilege to have Prof Pat Keifert with us. He did not only engage with us at Synod, but also visited the CCE, CCW, various congregations and Pastors Convocation. There was much hope expressed and a desire to continue to pursue this with the key question in mind: „What is God up to with His church? “

It is encouraging to hear and see how some congregations constructively engage and critically look at where they are and what habits need to change in order to be church, not only for themselves, but with and for the community living around them. In the CCW the Listening Team will visit the congregations to journey with them in order to gain deeper insight into the Timeline, asking the question: "What useable past is there for the future? “

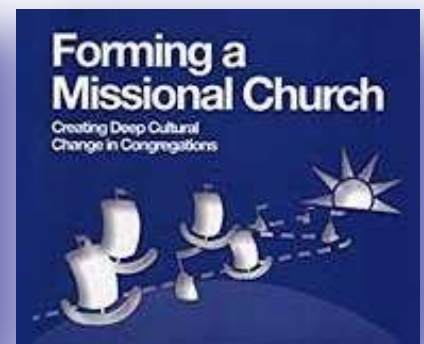
The visitations will also be used to deepen some of the aspects and tools that we have discovered through Pat Keifert. Some material will be passed on to the Congregational Councils and Synod Delegates to be used on congregational level.

Visit by EKD (Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland) 2018

A delegation of members of the Board of the EKD (Rat der EKD) will visit us and other partner churches in Southern Africa in March 2018. They will be in Cape Town from 9 - 11 March 2018. The aim is to get an insight and some understanding of the situation and challenges in which we are church. They will visit the Faculty of Theology in Stellenbosch, as that is where we will be training our pastors from 2018; iThemba Labantu, as a joint diaconical institution of the Moravian Church, ELCSA-COD and us; The Philippi Children's Centre; a farm in Philippi area; the 'Sion's Gemeente', St Martini and Strand Street and a meeting with Church Council.

CCE

Pastor Martha Weich was ordained during a wonderful celebration on 10.12.2017 at St Paul's in Stutterheim. We wish her and the Inland Parish and fruitful journey together.



News from the Office of the Bishop

St Crucis

Pastor Dieter Trümpelmann has relocated to Gauteng. We trust that he and his family will settle in well, and that the children will be happy at school and make new friends soon. During the vacancy Pastor H-P von Fintel will serve as locum tenens. We thank the retired pastors and preachers for sharing the responsibility of sharing the word during this time. May the Congregational Council have the wisdom

and endurance to lead and serve the faith community. We trust the congregation will find a new shepherd soon.

UELCSA (United Evang. Lutheran Church in Southern Africa)

The University of Stellenbosch is the preferred institution of training for ministry. Mr. Herman Düvel from KZN has started studying for fulltime ministry. We wish him joy in his endeavours. May many more students enrol to be equipped for fulltime ministry.

Nachrichten aus dem Büro des Bischofs

Partnership Missional Churches Listening Process – was nun?

Im August und September 2017 hatten wir das Vorrecht, Prof. Pat Keifert bei uns zu haben. Er hat sich nicht nur in der Synode engagiert sondern besuchte CCE, CCW, verschiedene Gemeinden, das Pastorenkonvent und einige der Mitarbeiter. Der Wunsch wurde geäußert, dass wir diesen Weg weiterverfolgen und neue Wege suchen und fragen: "Was hat der Herr mit seiner Kirche vor?" Es ist ermutigend zu hören und zu sehen, wie Gemeinden sich kritisch betrachten und fragen wo sie sich befinden, und was sich ändern sollte, damit sie nicht nur für sich selbst Kirche sind, sondern mit und für Menschen die dort leben. Im CCW wird das 'Listening Team' Gemeinden besuchen, um mit ihnen tiefere Einblicke in die "Timeline" zu gewinnen und zu fragen: "Was uns aus der Geschichte der Gemeinde für die

Zukunft und die nächsten Schritte ermutigt?"

Die Visitationen sollen auch dazu dienen, in dieser Richtung weiter zu denken, zu arbeiten und zu planen. Material zur "Partnership of Missional Churches" wird Kirchenvorständen und Synodalen, zur Stärkung und Motivation, zugeschickt.



Pat Keifert und Anja Spiske in PE

Besuch von der EKD (Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland) in 2018

Eine Delegation vom Rat der EKD besucht uns vom 9 -11.3.2018. Ziel ist, einen Einblick in Situation und Herausforderung zu gewinnen, in denen wir als Kirche arbeiten.

Nachrichten aus dem Büro des Bischofs

Besucht werden: Theologische Fakultät in Stellenbosch (Ausbildungsstätte unsrer Pastoren ab 2018); iThemba Labantu, (unser gemeinsames diakonisches Werk mit der Moravian Church und der ELCSA-COD); das Philippi Children's Centre; eine Farm in Philippi; die "Sions Gemeinde" in Philippi; St. Martini und Strand Street, sowie ein Treffen mit der Kirchenleitung.

CCE

Pastorin Martha Weich wurde am 10.12.2017 in Stutterheim in einem Festgottesdienst ordiniert. Nun steht sie im vollzeitlichen Dienst des Inland Kirchenkreises. Wir wünschen ihr und den Gemeinden viel Kraft, Mut und Freude am Kirche-sein in der Region.

St. Crucis

Pastor Dieter Trümpelmann und Familie sind nun nach Gauteng umgezogen. Wir wünschen ihnen Gottes reichsten Segen für den Anfang dort. Wir vertrauen, dass die St.Crucis Gemeinde bald einen neuen Hirten finden wird. Pastor HP von Fintel wird den Vertretungsdienst während der Vakanz übernehmen. Wir danken den Ruheständlern, den Predigern und den vielen Mitgliedern die sich mit ihren Gaben einsetzen und so weiterhin die Gemeinde aufbauen.

VELKSA (Vereinigte Evang-Luth Kirche im südlichen Afrika)

Die Universität Stellenbosch ist die bevorzugte Institution der Ausbildung für das Theologiestudium. Herr Herman Düvel aus KZN hat dort sein Studium begonnen.

Carols, Cake & Coffee



What is Lent?

Lent is a 40 day Christian festival that begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes on Easter (Sundays are not counted). To begin this holy season, on Ash Wednesday some churches invite their members to come forward and receive the imposition of ashes. The Pastor applies ashes in the shape of a cross on the forehead of each while speaking the words, "For dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season when God calls us to reflect on the meaning of Christ's death and resurrection and sets the tone for Lent. Each moment you encounter your reflection, your ashes are a striking reminder that "you are dust, and to dust you shall return". But the cross, a symbol of Jesus' crucifixion, offers hope. That theme is to be with us throughout the entire season, for Lent is a season of reflection and hope.

Lent prepares us for the observance of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection for us. The liturgical colour for Lent is purple. This deep, rich colour has come to represent sombreness and solemnity, penitence, and prayer. Jesus wore a purple robe only once. As the soldiers mocked and tormented Him, the Scriptures record they placed on Him a "purple garment" in order to ridicule Him and belittle the claim that he was King of the Jews. Thus, purple is also a reminder of the contempt and scorn he endured, and the subsequent sacrifice he made for our eternal salvation. May this holy season remind us of our daily need to humbly give attention to remembering and personalizing the great sacrifice that Christ made on the cross for our sins, as we follow our Saviour's footsteps to the cross on which he suffered for our redemption.

