



LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH

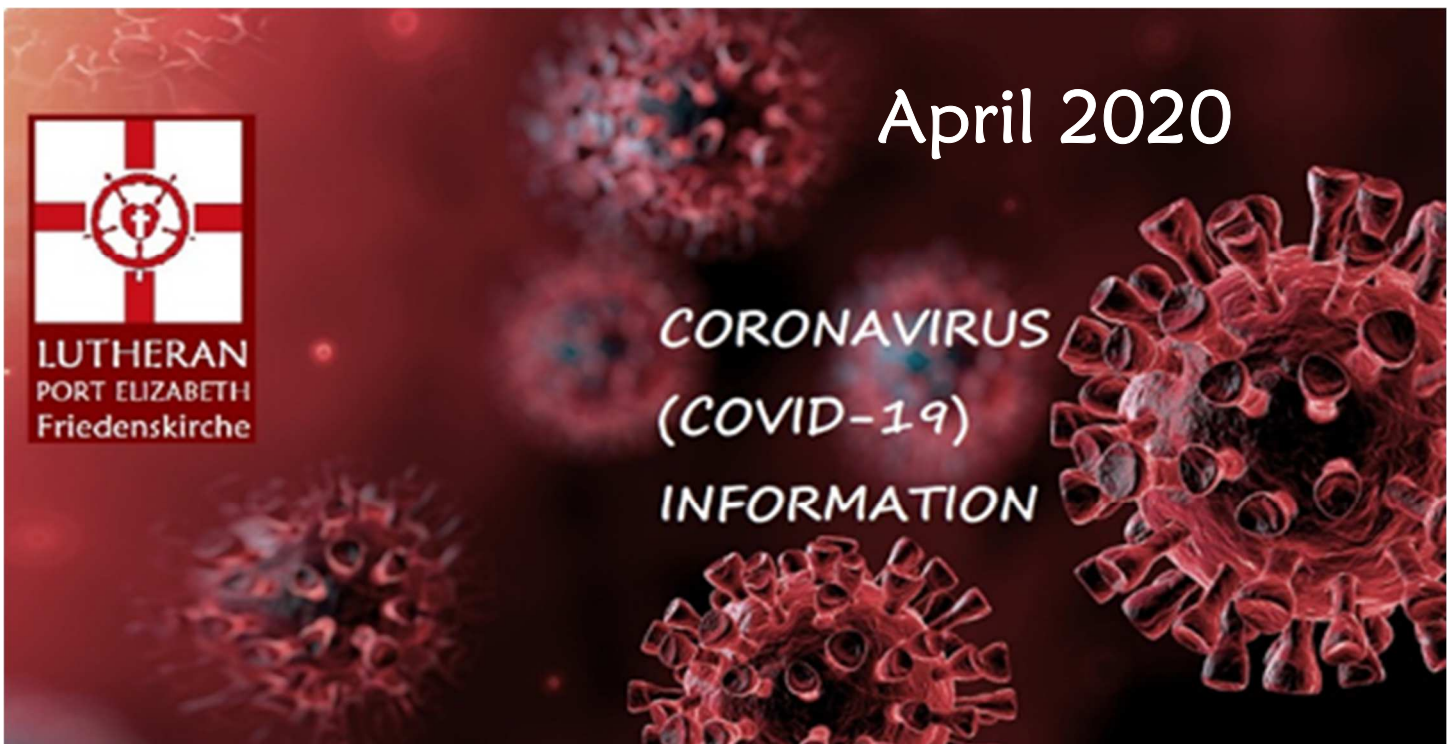
Friedenskirche

www.lutheran-pe.org

Evangelical - Lutheran Church Springfield Port Elizabeth

No. 2020.2a Newsletter / Gemeindebrief

April 2020



Due to the LOCKDOWN in South Africa it is no longer possible for us as a congregation to meet for divine services and events. But we will stay in touch and continue to celebrate our services. We have to learn that a church in this special time is not dependent on physically meeting together on Sundays.

This is a special edition of the newsletter for the month of April only. More information can be found on the following pages.

Aufgrund des LOCKDOWN in Südafrika ist es nicht mehr möglich, uns als Gemeinde zum Gottesdienst und für Veranstaltungen zu treffen. Aber wir bleiben in Kontakt und werden weiterhin unsere Gottesdienste feiern. Wir müssen lernen, dass eine Gemeinde in dieser besonderen Zeit nicht davon abhängig ist, dass wir sonntags physisch zusammenkommen.

Dies eine Sonderausgabe des Gemeindebriefes für den Monat April. Weitere Informationen finden Sie auf den nächsten Seiten.

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

Statement from the Church Committee

Port Elizabeth, 25 March 2020

Dear Congregation

This is an official notice that our Divine Services and all other Congregational activities are cancelled from 26 March to 16 April 2020 due to the national lockdown situation in our country issued by President Ramaphosa.

However, during this time we remain connected mentally and spiritually through our thoughts and prayers as we think of and pray for each other and our world in these troubled times.

One way of doing this can be by "gathering" as a congregation twice a week, on Thursday **evening at 19h00** for prayer and on **Sunday morning at 09h30** for a message and a prayer. I'll send prayers and messages out to you via WhatsApp and Facebook. **Every evening at 21h00** we can light a candle and **pray the Our Father together.**

On Sundays I will ring our church bell at 09h30, the time our Divine Service would normally start each Sunday morning, as a call to prayer. I will also send out a message with a prayer to you for each Sunday.

Our Divine Services must fall away for the time being – God does not fall away.

God promises: "The mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and the covenant of my peace shall not be removed, says the LORD, who has compassion on you." (Isaiah 54:10)

God bless and keep you all!

Yours Faithfully

Pastor, Anja Spiske



Bekanntmachung des Kirchenvorstandes

Port Elizabeth, 25 März 2020

Liebe Gemeinde,

Dies ist eine offizielle Mitteilung, dass unsere Gottesdienste und alle anderen Aktivitäten der Friedenskirche PE vom 26. März bis und mit 16. April 2020 aufgrund der von Präsident Ramaphosa verhängten nationalen Sperre in unserem Land abgesagt werden.

Während dieser Zeit bleiben wir jedoch durch unsere Gedanken und Gebete geistig und seelisch verbunden, indem wir in diesen unruhigen Zeiten aneinander und an unsere Welt denken und für sie und uns beten.

Eine Möglichkeit, kann darin bestehen, dass wir uns zweimal pro Woche als Gemeinde "versammeln", am **Donnerstagabend um 19:00 Uhr** zum Gebet und am **Sonntagmorgen um 09:30 Uhr** zu einer Botschaft und einem Gebet. Ich werde Gebete und Botschaften über WhatsApp und Facebook an Sie/Euch senden. **Jeden Abend um 21:00 Uhr** können wir eine Kerze anzünden und gemeinsam das Vaterunser beten.

Unsere Gottesdienste werden vorerst ausfallen müssen - Gott fällt nicht aus.

Gott verspricht: "Es sollen wohl Berge weichen und Hügel hinfallen, aber meine Gnade soll nicht von dir weichen, und der Bund meines Friedens soll nicht hinfallen, spricht der Herr, dein Erbarmer."
(Jesaja 54,10)

Gott segne und behüte uns alle!
Euch herzlichst verbunden ,
Pastorin Anja Spiske



From The Pastor's Heart

The Risen Jesus

(Luke 24:13-35)

What do we hope for in death? How do we imagine the resurrection that awaits us in death? What does Easter mean to us?

Well, we do not know exactly what and how all this happened with the resurrection of Jesus. The events themselves are and remain a mystery of faith. But that is far from all that can be said. Although the events of the Resurrection break through everything we can possibly say and describe with our human processes of perception and historiography, there is something very precise about the resurrection of Jesus, that is obvious and cannot be overlooked or discussed away: The before and after his death; that is, as things were for the disciples before the resurrection and how things changed for them after the resurrection. For this is why this immeasurably wonderful story of the Resurrection of Jesus is still celebrated and believed to this day – because there is still a before and an after.

Let us first look at the before and after of the disciples of Jesus. Before, the disciples were trapped in total hopelessness, resignation, grief, and depression. All they hoped

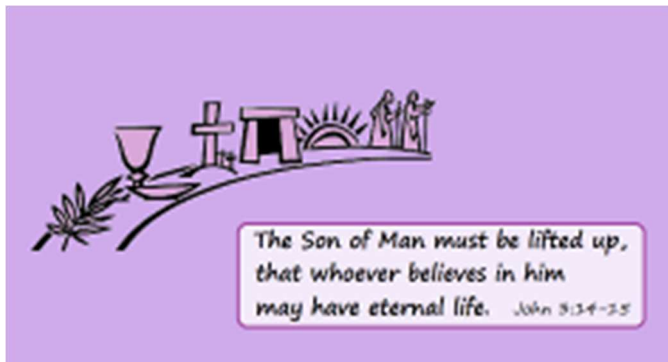
for, all they believed about the Messiah of God, with his horrible death on the cross, has been completely shattered; and then afterwards, after the resurrection, there has been a complete transformation in their faith and how they perceived Jesus. We see how, in a moment of absolute hopelessness and despair, a Church suddenly emerges which has carried on with this resurrection message and passed it on from one generation to the next (like a relay stick) boldly proclaiming that we all live from this resurrection moment – forever!

Who can understand this? The encounter with the Risen One has also completely overturned the understanding of the disciples. They couldn't comprehend what had happened. But it's not about understanding – it's about experiencing! Luke shows us most clearly in his story of the Emmaus disciples and what they have experienced "on their road", their dark road from Jerusalem back to Emmaus. Disillusioned and shattered they fled from Jerusalem, the place of their hope.

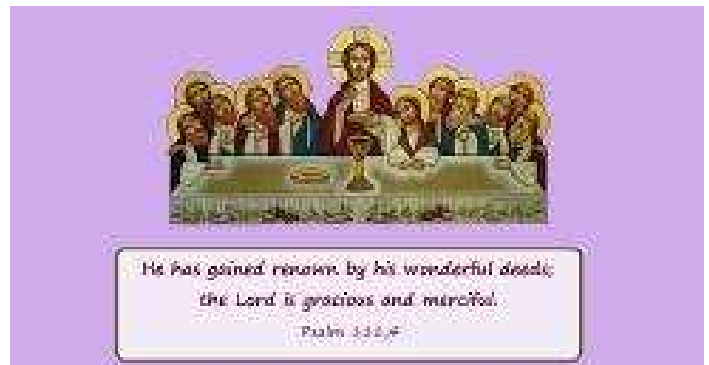
Continued on page 9

Sundays in April

5 April 2020 - Palm Sunday
Sixth Sunday in Lent



Thursday 9 April 2020
Maundy Thursday



There are moments in life when nothing is as it seems. A cheerful face hides deep sorrow, the hard exterior can hide a soft heart, and behind what appears to be such a bleak future lies a new opportunity. These moments are uncertain and vague. It's only in hindsight that we can interpret the signs correctly. Palm Sunday leads into such a moment in time: The hands, which swing palm branches, are already balled into fists. The beautiful "Hosanna" becomes the awful "crucify". Cheerful faces turn cold and hard. And yet it is Jesus' Death on the Cross that brings Life to us. His Way into darkness was a way into the Light, - today, on Palm Sunday, we remember that. In the beaten, the vulnerable and the despised, God is very close. Only a few recognized this truth, like the woman who prepared Jesus' body for death and burial by pouring precious oil over his head.

When did I last see him? What words were spoken and what was forgiven? How important are these questions, when a loved one dies? Good for those, who could say goodbye or even heard a last word. You keep it for a lifetime. Maundy Thursday tells of the last legacy of Jesus. Jesus takes a lot of time to say goodbye, encourages the disciples, washes their feet, and gives them words and signs for the time without him. And the legacy lives. Even today, Christians confess: In the Lord's Supper Jesus is very close, even after 2000 years. He shares in his new life. We honour him when we break the bread and share the wine, peacefully and without divisions.

Today, since we are not able to gather and celebrate Communion together we especially remember Jesus' words: 'I am the Bread of Life for you'. His Word is our Bread and we feed on him.

Sundays in April

Friday 10 April 2020
Good Friday



Crucified, dead and buried: on Good Friday Christians commemorate the death of Jesus. His cry " 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' " addresses the questions connected with this day about God's presence in suffering.

In Jesus, God uncompromisingly puts himself into the night. He is betrayed by friends, mocked, tortured and finally executed on the cross. The first Christians confessed: Jesus died for our sins. Nothing we do can be so bad that we are lost. But today more and more people are having difficulties with it: Does God need a sacrifice to atone? He does not need it, but he is very close to the people in suffering.

There should be no barriers between him and us. The sign of this is the cross that connects heaven and earth.

12 April 2020
Easter Sunday

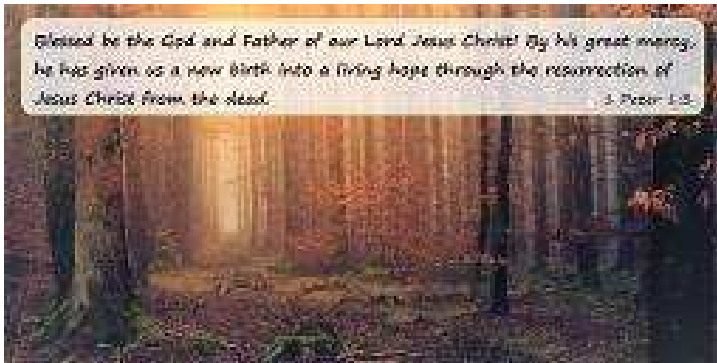


Love is stronger than death
Easter is the feast of pure joy. A joy that is so pure because it knows the depths of suffering, yet also knows that it's not all there is to life, that there is more.

Our first love or the birth of a child or rescue from great danger – there are events that fill us with unspeakable, deep joy. You want to sing and cheer or you simply don't get a word out for all the happiness. Easter is the pinnacle of amazement and joy! The three women at the tomb, the disciples to whom the Risen One appears, and Mary Magdalene, they cannot remain silent: Jesus lives! Love has conquered death. Death has lost its last power over us. Jesus' resurrection changed everything. Those who live against all odds in this trust can act more freely and can stand up to all that threatens life. "Death, where is your sting?"

Sundays in April

19.04.20 - Quasimodogeniti First Sunday after Easter

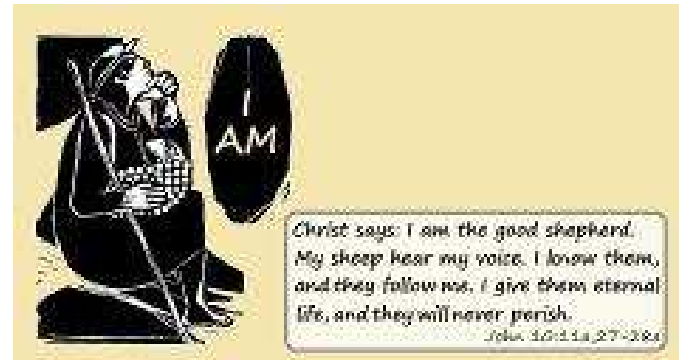


"Seeing is (not) believing." "Blessed are those who do not see and yet believe": The "unbelieving Thomas" confronts us with the desire to see and understand the contents of faith. Faith in the resurrection, however, is not directed towards a demonstrable fact. It is an act of confidence.

"I only believe what I see," is what many say. What I can explain with my mind, what I can grasp with my hands, only that is real. Resurrection? That does not fit! At first many disciples could not believe the message of the resurrection of Jesus.

Where was the proof? Where the logical explanation? The first Sunday after Easter (Quasimodogeniti) tells us how Jesus met those who doubted and were sceptical, how he let himself be touched and ate with them. They were thus also able to believe what they did not see: the invisible communion with Christ. Christians are already sharing in his new life. Can we believe that? "Blessed are those who do not see and yet believe," says Jesus.

26.04. Misericordias Domini Second Sunday after Easter



Sometimes I wish that there's someone who cares for me, who shows me the right way and guides me through dangers unharmed, one who quenches my thirst for life and tries to find me when I get lost. Jesus as the "Good Shepherd" stands at the centre on this second Sunday after Easter. The archetype of the shepherd appeals to adults and children alike. The New Testament confesses Christ as the good shepherd, who does not give up the lost and who leaves his life for those entrusted to him. Every single one counts. However, the biblical texts also warn against bad shepherds, who only think about their own well-being, run away from danger and do not strengthen the weak. It is important to stick to the good shepherd and to look after others like he did.

Birthdays in April



04 Apr Sigi Sauer
 09 Apr Thomas Jachens
 10 Apr Liz Tessendorf
 11 Apr Gisela Ruppelt
 11 Apr Kerilee Thompson
 15 Apr Erica Tessendorf
 16 Apr Hans Rohwer
 19 Apr Wayne Böttcher
 23 Apr Aiden Groenmeyer
 27 Apr Mercia Fillis
 28 Apr Christian Seifert



Prayer Cards

01 April	Susanne Ziefreund
02 April	Gisela Schhmidt
03 April	Genia Lokotsch
04 April	Rosi Seiffert
05 April	Helma Weber
06 April	Gerry West
07 April	Chrystal Welcome
08 April	Sicilia Welcome
09 April	Janine Wright
10 April	Clinton Wright
11 April	Nicole Wright
12 April	Blake Wright
13 April	Udo Weder
14 April	Phil van Rensburg
15 April	Ayesha van Wyk
16 April	Molly Trumpp
17 April	David Thompson
18 April	Derek Thompson
19 April	Uwe Stodtmeister
20 April	Doreen Stocklose
21 April	Clinton Sternberg
22 April	Renee Sternberg
23 April	Sophie Sternberg
24 April	Nicolas Sternberg
25 April	Lionel Sonnenberger
26 April	Colleen Sonnenberger
27 April	Sheldine Septoe
28 April	Patrick Septoe
29 April	Christel Schaedler
30 April	Sonja Savini01

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayer, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all people. Timothy 2:1

From The Pastor's Heart

Continued from page 4

On the way they talk to one another about what happened. In the middle of their deep conversation, Jesus meets them on the road. But they don't recognize him. It was only when he explained to them from the Scriptures about the events they had experienced and then joined them for supper that evening they recognized him. But as soon as they recognized him, he escapes their gaze again.

Like the Emmaus disciples, we too often run away from the disappointments of our lives. Resurrection, as Luke encourages us, can happen in the middle of the journey while we are still talking about our destroyed hopes and disillusionment in the light of God's Word. Then it may happen that we begin to understand the meaning of what has happened to us. The eyes open. And most importantly, we sense that we are not alone. The Risen One is on the road with us. He breaks the bread for us. But we cannot hold on to the experience of the Risen One. As soon as we recognize it, it eludes our gaze again. It remains a mystery of faith.

The experience that transformed the anxious and frightened disciples into courageous witnesses of Jesus was his resurrection. We cannot say exactly how this event happened back then. But it was certainly not just a figment of someone's imagination. It was (and still is) an experience that deeply touched and completely transformed the disciples. The Risen One appeared to them; they have seen him; he met them; it opened their eyes as to who Jesus was. They knew that this Jesus, with whom they walked through Galilee and Judea, is alive! He has not remained in death. This is the revaluation of all values. This is the hope for us too, that all our broken hopes and dreams, our disillusionment and fear (the before), will also be transformed into new hope and that our lives will ultimately succeed and will find its fulfillment through the gateway of death into the glory of God! Jesus, the risen One, reassures us: "In me you will find rest for your souls." (Mt. 11:29c)



News from the Bishop's desk

COVID-19 – what can we do on congregational level?

Dear sisters and brothers, the spread of the virus is causing much uncertainty and panic in many regards. The medical fraternity, politicians and business have shared much information that is available in different forms of media.

But, can we do something on congregational level? To me there are two important aspects how we can be involved: Creating awareness of appropriate hygiene and providing for that in practical ways at our facilities. And, we can speak out against victimisation.

Congregations and Pastors

Vacancies in the congregation are always an opportunity for the members to use their gifts more to build-up the Body of Christ, but it also brings with it uncertainties and more responsibility for the leadership on different levels.

Thank you for all who are so involved, serving to the glory of the Triune God.

Church of the Cross, Bellville:

Ds Schalk Treurnicht, an ordained minister from the Dutch Reformed Church has been assisting during the vacancy and wishes to become a Lutheran pastor. He will do a colloquium on 20 May 2020. After comple-

tion he will become one of our pastors and be eligible to be elected for the post in Bellville. Thus, by July the vacancy could come to an end. In the meantime, he has been appointed on a Fixed Short-Term contract from February to end of June 2020 to serve in the congregation. We thank him for his dedicated service.

St Crucis:

Pastor Frank Schütte from NELCSA has been elected by the St Crucis Congregation at their AGM on 1 March. He will hopefully move to Beacon Bay in December and start his ministry at St Crucis. We wish him and his family God's blessing for the work in the current congregation and then the upcoming move.

Southern Cape:

The discussions are ongoing as we seek to find ways to fill the vacancy through a shared post with the ELCSA-COD.

Bloemfontein:

The congregation is still vacant, but there are some promising developments. We pray that the Lord will open doors and show the way. May the Lord strengthen the leadership and members to keep on faithfully building the Kingdom of God.

Nachrichten aus dem Büro des Bischofs

COVID-19 - Was können wir auf Gemeindeebene tun?

Liebe Schwestern und Brüder, die Ausbreitung des Virus verursacht in vielerlei Hinsicht Unsicherheit und Panik. Die Mediziner und Politiker haben viele Informationen veröffentlicht, die in den Medien verfügbar sind.

Was können wir auf Gemeindeebene unternehmen? Für mich gibt es zwei wichtige Aspekte, wie wir uns beteiligen können: Bewusstsein für angemessene Hygiene schaffen, notwendige Mittel zur Verfügung stellen und uns gegen die Viktimisierung der Patienten aussprechen.

Gemeinden und Pastoren

Eine Vakanz in der Gemeinde bietet eine Gelegenheit für Mitglieder ihre Gaben stärker zum Aufbau des Leibes Christi einzusetzen. Sie bedeutet aber auch Unsicherheit, mehr Verantwortung und Aufgaben für den Kirchenvorstand und die Mitarbeiter. Einen herzlichen Dank an alle, die sich im Kirche-sein unermüdlich einsetzen.

Kreuzkirche, Bellville:

Ds Schalk Treurnicht, ein ordnierter Dominee der Nederduits Gereformeerde Kerk, möchte lutherischer Pastor werden und die Pfarrstelle in Bellville überneh-

men. Er wird am 20. Mai 2020 ein Kolloquium abhalten müssen. Danach wird er einer unserer Pastoren sein und kann von der Gemeinde in Bellville gewählt werden.

In der Zwischenzeit wird er von Februar bis Ende Juni 2020 auf Zeit angestellt und gebeten die Gemeinde zu betreuen. Wir danken ihm für seinen engagierten Einsatz.

St. Crucis:

Pastor Frank Schütte von NELCSA wurde an der Gemeindeversammlung am 1. März gewählt. Er wird im Dezember nach Beacon Bay umziehen und seinen Dienst dort beginnen. Wir wünschen ihm und seiner Familie Gottes Segen für die Arbeit in der gegenwärtigen Gemeinde und dann für den bevorstehenden Umzug.

Südkap:

Gespräche mit der Gemeinde für Möglichkeiten die Pfarrstelle zu besetzen wird weitergeführt. Angedacht wird an eine geteilte Stelle mit ELCSA-COD Gemeinden.

Bloemfontein:

Die Pfarrstelle ist noch vakant, aber es gibt positive Entwicklungen die Stelle zu besetzen. Wir beten, dass der Herr uns Türen öffnet und den Weg zeigt. Möge der Herr den Kirchenvorstand und die Mitglieder stärken in ihren Dienst dort.

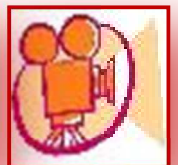


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Reinhard Walle (Chairman)	4 May Way chairman@lutheran-pe.org 041-360 6769 H	Sunridge Park 6045 063 685 0263
Gerhard Fröhlich (Treasurer)	63 Boundary Rd, treasurer@lutheran-pe.org 041-360 3317 H	Morningside 6025
Henry Newman (Membership)	81 Villiers Road, membership@lutheran-pe.org 041-581 3907 H	Walmer 6070 078 703 7003
Carol Buschhold	25 St Louis, Nerina Ave	Kamma Park 6070 071 6376 372
Auke Brand	52 Bernard Road warden1@lutheran-pe.org 041-367 5287	Lovemore Heights 6025 082 824 7345
Desmond Fillis	12 Speyers Road warden4@lutheran-pe.org 041-367 2788	Walmer Downs 6070 072 399 3574
Elizabeth Köpke	33 Walker Gardens Montrose Street	Sherwood 6025 071 572 0433
Sicilia Welcome	13 Loton Street warden2@lutheran-pe.org 041-452 3095	Young Park 6001 082 862 8609

Notice Board

Anschlagbrett

As we do not know when it will be possible to use our church and church-centre again, you will not find a calendar of events for 2020 in this newsletter. The newsletter cannot be sent by mail. Please use our other channels like WhatsApp and Facebook.



Da wir nicht wissen, wann es möglich ist wieder Kirche und Kirchenzentrum benutzen können ist in diesen Newsletter kein Veranstaltungskalender für das Jahr 2020 vorhanden. Auch kann der Newsletter nicht per Post zugestellt werden. Bitten benutzen Sie unsere anderen Kanäle wie WhatsApp und Facebook.