

- ◆ A msg from Government, 7 May 2020:
During Lockdown: religious, social & sports gatherings are not allowed. Don't put your life and the lives of others at risk.
- ◆ In this period of lockdown there's a call on the church to help those in dire need. Many people live in a 'no work, no pay' situation.
We try to network with other churches to find out how we can make a difference together. More information via our [WhatsApp-Group](#)
- ◆ We celebrate our services at home but together every Sunday 09:30
Information will be delivered beforehand by [WhatsApp-Group](#) and [Facebook](#)
- ◆ We will light a candle every evening at 21:00 at home and pray together the Our Father - hope and solidarity in times of lockdown
- ◆ Our members help members refer to page 4
- ◆ Financials refer to page 5
- ◆ Information from Bishop Gilbert Filter refer to page 13
- ◆ Information from Lutheran World Federation refer to page 15

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

From The Pastor's Heart

Christ as our Role Model

1 Peter 2:21-25

²¹To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his footsteps. ²²"He committed no sin and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." ²⁵For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

This text is talking about following Christ, in his footsteps, following his example. When we think about following someone's example, we think about role models.

When we think about role models, what role models shape us? The role models of our time look very different than that of Christ. Our desires and expectations of life are often determined by ideals. What does an ideal life look like for us? What pictures or models do the newspapers, television and, above all, advertising paint before our eyes? Often they are happy, bright, healthy people; successful people who succeed in everything they do and who can af-

ford just about everything. These are, for the largest part, our role models in this world.

The First Epistle to Peter says: Christ also left you a picture, a role model – of himself. Now the question is, which Christ? The one who did the miracles, who delivered the great sermon on the Mount, the Lord who rose from the dead, the Christ with the halo around his head? In this particular text, – no. The text says it clearly: Christ suffered for us, he did not retaliate, he did not threaten, he bore our sins **in his body** on the cross. This means that our role model is the suffering Christ, the Christ on the cross. But hang on. Are we not in the time of Easter celebration. Why are we reading and thinking about the suffering Christ now? Remember, on Sunday Quasimodogeniti we looked at the doubts of Thomas. Not without reason did Jesus say to him that he should put his hands where his **wounds** were, so that Thomas might **feel and believe**. **By his wounds we are healed**.

This brings us to a very sore spot! The word "suffering" itself already awakens in us the feeling of retaliation. Suffering does not fit into the beautiful image of our joyful, prosperous society. Nobody wants to suffer. And we expect God to save us from suffer-

From The Pastor's Heart

ing and not to present to us someone who suffers as a role model. Nevertheless, we cannot get away from it. Suffering meets us wherever we look. We see it with ourselves and with others. How can God allow this? we then ask. Is God powerless? This is often the moment where we no longer know what to do with God or where we don't even want anything to do with God. When we suffer, we have no role models, no ideals, we are alone.

Or, are we? If we look at the cross of Christ again, we can understand this text in first Peter. "He has left you an example to follow his footsteps." Just to be clear, following Christ's footsteps does not mean that we imitate Christ (which has been tried so often). Christ has suffered **for us**. In Christ God meets us in human form. We cannot imitate that. So, when I look up to Christ as my role model, I see someone who meets me in my helplessness; someone who meets me in that place where I feel powerless. Yes, I see someone suffering, beaten up and in pain, but it is someone whom I can hold on to when I am down, at the bottom, and feel all alone. I see a dying person, yes, but one who does not leave me alone in my dying.

Therefore, having Christ as our role model takes on a whole dif-

ferent meaning for us. This becomes for us the deepest comfort – a deep comfort like no other. Christ has identified himself with us to the utmost extent, so we can identify ourselves with him. Suffering, particularly when that suffering is undeserved, is soul destroying, but it can become edifying if we view it in the light of Christ's suffering. Our sufferings can be transformed from the meaningless thing that it often is into something of dignity and worth by being associated with Christ's suffering. This is the profound meaning of following in his footsteps and having Christ as our ultimate role model! Whatever I am going through: Christ, who suffered for me, is always before my eyes. He's my Good Shepherd who will lead and guide me, give me direction, strengthen and protect me and give me rest when I need it.

Following in his footsteps, listening to His voice and following his call means then that we reach out to those who suffer as being sufferers ourselves; it means reaching out to the powerless as being powerless ourselves. We don't have all the answers; we don't always know what to do and how to do it. But we can learn to understand the joy of sharing the suffering and pain of life with others and, where it is possible for us, help to alleviate some of that suffering and pain. We are wounded healers out in the world as we

From The Pastor's Heart

are healed by the wounded Christ on the Cross.

We are often overwhelmed by the pain and suffering we see and experience. That has certainly always been the case, but we feel it especially in our days now. People are ill, people are hungry, people are dying. Yes, we do sometimes feel helpless and powerless when faced with all the problems around us and in the world. How many times had we wished that God would just let fire fall from heaven to eradicate evil. How many times have we desired God to do a miracle to redeem us from our suffering? But God's way is different: He comes to us as the one who is powerless and suffering to meet us where we are. That's what makes Him the Good Shepherd and Overseer of our souls.

We cannot imitate him, but we can listen to his Voice and follow him to where he is calling us. As Jesus says: "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life."

This Voice that is calling us, calls us to follow him on the way that leads to life. The abundant life of which Jesus speaks is not necessarily about abundance in years, or in wealth, or status, or accomplishments. It is life that is abundant in the love of God made known in Jesus Christ, love that overflows to others (John 13:34-35). It is eternal life because its source is in God who is eternal

(17:3), and in Jesus, who is the resurrection and the life (11:25-26).

Amidst all the other voices that evoke fear, make demands, or give advice, the voice of the Good Shepherd is a voice of promise - a voice that calls us by name to follow him. Amen.

COVID -19 Help



Our Malawian members are in desperate need of aid. The government won't look after foreign nationals and their situation is desperate now that they can't work. Thank you Everybody! Great effort that will bring great relief! God bless you! Your gifts were distributed to Malawian and other members in need and received with great joy and thankfulness! Thank you for your help!



Finances



LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH FRIEDENSKIRCHE - CHURCH OF PEACE



Dear Congregation

During this unforeseen time of COVID-19 we have found ourselves isolated at home some alone and others with loved ones. This is a troubling time for all.

During this transition back to normality Church services/gatherings will not be allowed to take place under all the current levels 1-5 set out by Government. This may be changed as and when Government makes amendments to the rulings.

We therefore are uncertain as to when we will be able to return to Church. We will continue to "keep our doors open" by conducting services as we have so far with WhatsApp and Facebook.

We thank everyone for your generous donations and monthly contributions. It is greatly appreciated. At this time, we are not able to organize and have our annual markets and other fundraising events. We are also not receiving any rental income from our hall hirers. This puts an added financial strain on our already struggling congregation. In order to continue to keep our doors open and doing the work we are called to do we humbly ask that you continue giving to the church as you are able.

If you would like to continually assist in "keeping the doors open" please do so by the means listed below.

Electronic Transfers: (please use the below references followed by your surname)

- For Sunday Collections: COLLECTION-"Your Surname"
- For Monthly Contributions: STEWARDSHIP-"Your Surname"
- For Bell Tower Project: BELLTOWER-"Your Surname"

Bank:	First National Bank, Walmer Branch.
Branch Code:	211217
Account Name:	Lutheran Church Springfield
Account Number:	534 200 32476

Prayer Cards

01 May: Hans Schaberg

02 May: Elise Schaberg

03 May: Sigi Sauer

04 May: Gisela Ruppelt

05 May: Sydney Rudolph

06 May: Eva Rudolph

18 May: Elizabeth
Koepke

19 May: Lorinda Koch

20 May: Ulrich Koch

21 May: Owen Kivedo

22 May: Hildegarde
Kivedo

OUR FATHER WHO
ART IN HEAVEN
HALLOWED
BE THY NAME

THY KINGDOM COME THY WILL BE DONE
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN
GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD
AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESSPASSES
AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESSPASS

07 May: Hans Rohwer

08 May: Jutta Rohwer

09 May: Rivka Rath

10 May: Barbara Rath

11 May: Barbara
Rautenbach

12 May: Henry Newman

13 May: Reinhard Mahlert

14 May: Gisela Mahlert

15 May: Dieter Lokotsch

16 May: Colin Lentz

17 May: Brenda Lentz

AGAINST US AND
LEAD US NOT INTO
TEMPTATION BUT
DELIVER US FROM EVIL
FOR THINE IS THE
KINGDOM AND THE POWER
AND THE GLORY FOREVER
AND EVER **AMEN**

23 May: Roswell
Kivedo

24 May: Neil Haschick

25 May: Kirsty Fillis

26 May: Melissa Fillis

27 May: Hildegard
Dreier

28 May: Joan
Cairncross

29 May: Anthea Burger

30 May: Chris Burger

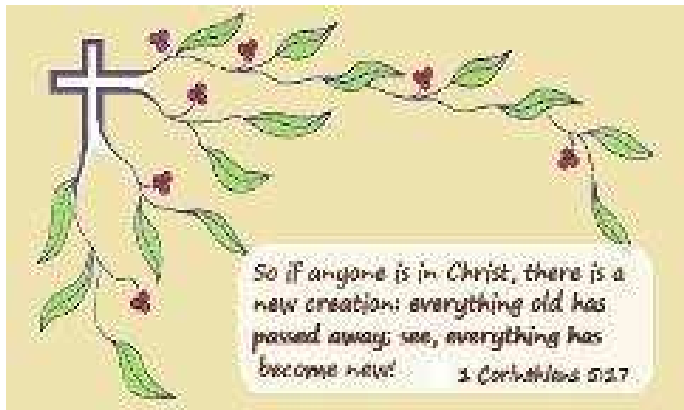
31 May: Branson
Bosman

*Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayer,
intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all people.*

Timothy 2:1

Sundays May 2020

3 May 2020 - Jubilate Third Sunday after Easter



Jubilate - Rejoice! How easy it is to become joyful if you think of how nature awakens with a colourful sea of flowers? This growing becomes a wonderful symbol of resurrection in the Easter season. Creation and new life are topics of the Sunday Jubilate. It tells of the good creation in the beginning, but also of its transient nature. Christians too are subject to the transience of life. And yet they already have an idea of a new life. Because Jesus is risen. For those who believe in him, death has lost its finality. It's possible to be new, even here and today. If you hold on to this hope, your strength grows. For as the vine gives strength to its branches, Christians too have their hold in Christ and can be called to life and be renewed again and again.

Sermon text: John 15:1-8

10 May 2020 - Cantate Fourth Sunday after Easter

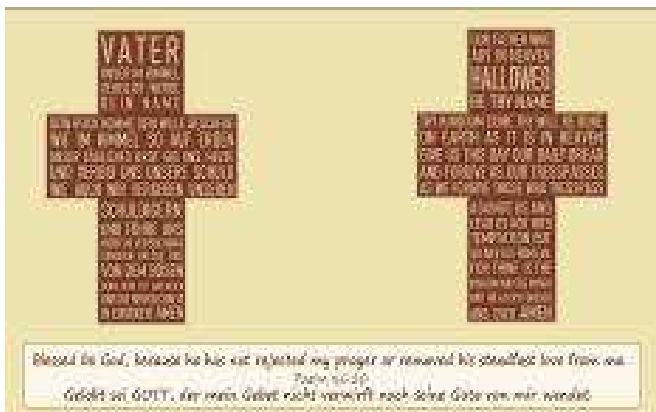


The exuberant dance, the song that frees the mourners' tears, the whistling in the dark and the aria that penetrates deep into the heart - music leaves no one unmoved. Protestant piety would not be possible without it. The Sunday Cantate (O Sing!) revolves around music and singing: the unburdened thanksgiving of those rescued, the mighty praises of God's works and the courageous singing that bursts prison walls - they all unite into a many-voiced praise of God. No area of human life should be excluded from this praise, no one is unsuited for music. The more our life becomes a song, the more this song will change us into more loving and thankful people.

Sermon text: Acts 16:23-34

Sonntage im Mai 2020

17 May 2020 - Rogate
Fifth Sunday after Easter



Thursday , 21 May 2020
Ascension Day



How do I get in touch with God? Will he hear what I say to him? Many adults find it difficult to pray. Others experience it as liberating, to pour out their hearts or to seek silence in God. The Sunday Rogate (Pray!) encourages prayer. Jesus has also repeatedly called us to pray. Versatile forms of prayer are already found in the Bible: the tempestuous and unyielding prayer, which urges God like a friend, the prayers for others and the thanks. Jesus promises that those who ask in His name will not fall on deaf ears with God. And he teaches his disciples the prayer which encompasses all other prayers the Our Father. There need not be many words. This is enough. It leads to listening to God. Not our will but God's will shall be done.

"Here is the heaven on earth," we say in moments in which we are all right. What is heaven? The infinite blue expanses over us or the seemingly timeless seconds in which we are happy? When we celebrate Christ's Ascension, we recall Jesus' departure from his disciples 40 days after his resurrection. He returns to God. Since that time, for Christians, the heavens are where Jesus Christ is. They live between heaven and earth. And yet, "What do you stand there looking into heaven?" The question to the disciples also applies to us. In the here and now, in our presence, we can experience something of heaven: in the splendour on the faces of our fellow human beings, in moments of joy and love, in which we are one with God and man.

Sermon text: Matthew 6,5-15

Sermon Text: John 17,20-26

Sundays in May 2020

24 May 2020 - Exaudi
Sixth Sunday after Easter

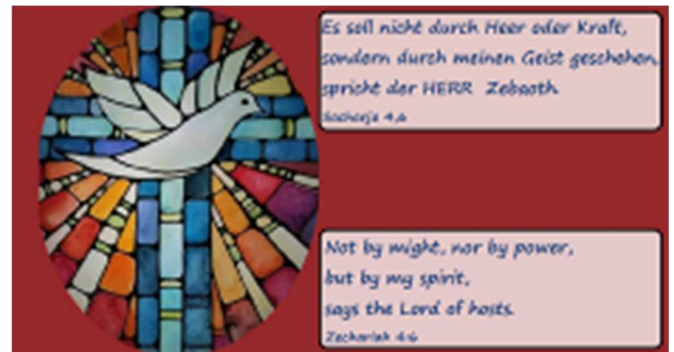


Farewell and Consolation

Sometimes it's hard to say goodbye: When I look after the train or wave goodbye at the airport. It's even harder if I don't know if we'll meet again. This Sunday is marked by Jesus' farewell to his disciples. Jesus has not been visible to them since his ascension to heaven. There are tough days ahead. But Jesus does not leave them alone. He will be close to them in other ways: in their hearts, as a never-ending source of strength. In a new spirit, they will recognize Jesus. This is no substitute for his presence, but it is a steadfast consolation. Even today, this Spirit lives in and among us: where God's will is asked, where love shapes our actions, it becomes palpable. But even where we feel close to despair or think we are in up to our necks; the comforting and guiding Spirit of Christ is close to us and brings our concerns before God. And sometimes God shows up where we never expected Him.

Sermon text: Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 May 2020
Pentecost—Whitsunday



I experience so often, that I do not understand others: in foreign countries, talking to specialist or when me and the others are not talking about the same subject. The opposite of this happens on Pentecost. The disciples, who were just still discouraged, overcame a great force like a "storm". Moved by the Holy Spirit, they speak of Jesus Christ, and the miracle happens: everyone can understand them in his own language. Many are baptized: the church is born. Pentecostal spirit invites us to think in their own language. The Pentecostal spirit keeps Jesus alive among us. It is a spirit that unites and does not separate humans, who frees and does not separate, a spirit that opens our eyes for injustice and opens our mouths for the truth.

Sermon text: Acts 2:1-21

A background image featuring several pink flowers with green stems and leaves. In the bottom right corner, the words "Happy Birthday!" are written in a large, black, handwritten-style font.

03-May: Liane Botha

05-May: Rea Letsholonyane

06-May: Rivka Rath

07-May: Sharon Bürger

07-May: Susanne Zifreund

09-May: Precious Mulioh

12-May: Rosemarie Middleton

13-May: Clinton Sternberg

14-May : Ayesha van Wyk

15-May : Geoff Andrews

23-May: Nicholas Jachens

23-May: Sonja Savini

23-May: Winfried Tessendorf

25-May: Roshni Bosman

29-May: Ryan Meyer

30-May: Erwin Gehring

30-May: Hildegard Dreier

31-May: Joy Cairncross

Weltweites Gebet am 14. Mai. 2020

LWB-Präsident Erzbischof Dr. Panti Filibus Musa und LWB-Generalsekretär Pfarrer Dr. h.c. Martin Junge haben sich dem Aufruf von Papst Franziskus und dem Großimam der Al-Azhar-Moschee an die Gläubigen aller Religionen zu einem weltweiten Gebet für die Menschheit am 14. Mai angeschlossen.

„Unsere Welt [ist] wegen der weiten Verbreitung des Coronavirus COVID-19 mit einer großen Gefahr konfrontiert, die das Leben von Millionen Menschen global bedroht“, heißt es in dem Einladungsschreiben des Hohen Ausschusses für die menschliche Geschwisterlichkeit an alle religiösen Führungspersonen und Menschen der Welt.

Das Schreiben ruft alle gläubigen Menschen weiterhin auf, Gott anzuflehen, dass er „diese Seuche beseitigt, uns aus diesem Verhängnis rettet, die Wissenschaft inspiriert, ein heilendes Medikament zu entwickeln, und der Welt dazu verhilft, die gesundheitlichen, wirtschaftlichen und menschlichen Auswirkungen dieser weitverbreiteten gefährlichen Pandemie zu überwinden“.

Der Hohe Ausschuss für die menschliche Geschwisterlichkeit wurde gegründet nachdem Papst Franziskus und Großimam Dr. Ahmad al-Tayyeb im Februar 2019 im Rahmen einer Konferenz in Abu Dhabi, der Hauptstadt der Vereinigten Arabischen Emirate,

über die Brüderlichkeit aller Menschen ein gemeinsames Dokument unterzeichnet hatten. Unter Leitung einer Gruppe von Führungspersonen und Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftler verschiedener Religionen ist der Ausschuss damit beauftragt, für die Umsetzung der in dem gemeinsamen Dokument formulierten Ziele der religiösen Toleranz und des friedlichen Zusammenlebens zu sorgen.

Der LWB-Präsident und der LWB-Generalsekretär haben den Aufruf zum Gebet begrüßt. Er bringe „Menschen unterschiedlicher Religionen zum Wohle der ganzen Menschheit zusammen“, so Präsident Musa und Generalsekretär Junge.

„Die Welt braucht Eintracht und Solidarität über Grenzen hinweg, um mit dieser COVID-19-Pandemie fertig zu werden. Unser Glaube veranlasst uns, demütig zu beten und Gott anzuflehen, er animiert uns aber auch, nicht nachzulassen, uns gegenseitig beizustehen und alle Angestellten im Gesundheitswesen und die Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftler zu unterstützen, die unermüdlich nach medizinischen Lösungen suchen.“

Worldwide prayer on 14 May 2020



LWF President Archbishop Panti Filibus Musa and General Secretary Rev. Dr Martin Junge have joined Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar in a call for a worldwide prayer of believers of all religions on 14 May.

"Our world is facing a great danger that threatens the lives of millions of people around the world due to the growing spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic," says the letter of invitation from the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity which is extended to all religious leaders and peoples around the world.

The invitation continues with a call to believers, that they implore God "to lift this pandemic off us and the entire world, to rescue us all from this adversity, to inspire scientists to find a cure that can turn back this disease, to save the whole world from the health, economic, and human repercussions of this serious pandemic."

The Committee was founded following the signing of a joint document by Pope Francis and the Grand Imam Dr Ahmad Al-Tayyeb in February 2019 at a conference on Human Fraternity in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates. Headed by a group of leaders and scholars of different faiths, the committee works to put in place the goals of religious tolerance and peaceful coexistence set out in the joint document.

The LWF President and General Secretary welcomed the call to prayer, which "brings people of different faiths together, for the good of humanity," said President Musa and General Secretary Junge.

"The world needs unity and solidarity across borders to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to humble prayer and supplication to God, our faiths inspire us to persevere in supporting one another, health workers, and scientists who are working tirelessly for medical solutions."

News from the bishop's desk

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

Dear sisters and brothers, that is the question we asked two months ago. Now we find ourselves in the Lockdown and most of us are confined to our homes and working from home. What can we do?

Much has happened and is happening in different ways to what we had been accustomed. We still gather as Church to worship, using the different possibilities given by social media, thereby keeping social distance. I commend the creativity, boldness and dedication with which this is done!

- Meetings take place through video conferencing.
- Members stay in regular contact by phoning each other, even more regularly than before.
- Caring takes place and church is lived and experienced in a different way.

The Lockdown has resulted in many losing their employment and their income. Poverty has drastically increased. People are hungry and desperate to survive under harsh circumstances.

Reflecting on this and being challenged by this reality on

Wednesday the continues reading was from 1 Peter 4 – I quote from The Message translation:

“Stay wide-awake in prayer. Most of all, love each other as if your life depended on it. Love makes up for practically anything. Be quick to give a meal to the hungry, a bed to the homeless—cheerfully. Be generous with the different things God gave you, passing them around so all get in on it: if words, let it be God’s words; if help, let it be God’s hearty help. That way, God’s bright presence will be evident in everything through Jesus, and he’ll get all the credit as the One mighty in everything—encores to the end of time. Oh, yes!”

So, what can we do?

As Cape Church, we have embarked on various projects to help in this regard.

A donation for food parcels was given to the St Luke’s project in the Eastern Cape. St Luke’s is the project we committed to at synod.

Money was given to ELCSA-COD in the CCW for food parcels to assist the needy in their congregations.

News from the bishop's desk

We support a Food Voucher System, which was set up by the Western Cape Ecumenical Network (WVEN). With donations from our Diaconia Fund, the employees of the Cape Church who are donating a percentage of their salary for 3 months, generous donations by members and congregations, we are able to support up to 50 households per week with a SMS Food Voucher of R 400,00.

There are many more things happening on a local level. Let us encourage one another not only in our giving, but also in being church to God's glory.

Bishop Gilbert Filter

Webpage of the Church

www.lutherancape.org.za

On our webpage you will find under resources important and relevant topics.

1. About Covid19: highlights matter on Covid-19 and the Lockdown
2. Role and Response of the Church during this time through the voice of:
 - * South African Council of Churches (SACC)
 - * Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and our own.
 - * National Church Leaders consultation (NCLC)
3. prayers, reflections and devotions (still in built-up phase)
4. Bishop's office: news and other topics
5. Global Teachers Institute: a teaching practice project
6. Synod: related Topics



LWF: “promote and protect life”

In the 19 March letter, LWF President Archbishop Dr Musa and General Secretary Rev. Dr Junge, note that restrictions on “social distancing” pose particular difficulties “for churches whose identity is expressed in a gathering of people in one space around the Word and sacraments. When the body of Christ cannot meet together in one place,” they ask, “what then are we to do?”

Theological/pastoral implications

The two leaders stress the importance of supporting and complying with local government laws and regulations that “promote and protect life.” Churches, they say, are called to set an example of “responsible adherence to public policies” and, at times, “even push local and national governments to heighten restrictions on movement and gatherings in order to protect the most vulnerable and the elderly. In normal circumstances, Musa and Junge say, compassion moves the church to create community with the sick or isolated. But now, the wellbeing of vulnerable neighbours is best served by not assembling.

As Lutherans, the letter continues, “we profess that we are liberated by God’s grace through faith” and are “free from religious compulsion.” In times of a global pandemic therefore, the two leaders say, “not to gather in one place for worship is an

expression of compassion and solidarity. It does not diminish our worship but embodies worship in a new way. It doesn’t make us to be less the church, but fully the church. This is the paradox of compassion that comes with the current pandemic of COVID-19.”

Alternative ways being together

Urging all member churches “to live into these times of exception with ongoing trust in the means of grace and the power of the Holy Spirit,” the two leaders highlight alternative ways of “remaining together” through online activities, radio and television broadcasts or the distribution of print materials for households to continue Christian education and worship at home.

Musa and Junge note that even when sharing the bread and wine is not available, “we take comfort in remembering that the Word is a means of grace, that can be received through prayer, singing, reading and meditating on the Word, as well as remembering our community and our neighbours.” The Holy Spirit is present when we profess God’s name even if we are alone, they say.

Live out the Reformation principle ‘ecclesia semper reformanda’ (the church in ongoing process of reforming) as you find new ways of gathering in Jesus’ name and worshipping the Triune God.



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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
Elizabeth Köpke	33 Walker Gardens Montrose Street	Sherwood 6025 071 572 0433
Ryan Meyer	5 Seine Str warden3@lutheran-pe.org	Woodlands 6070 073 230 2513
Sicilia Welcome	13 Loton Street warden2@lutheran-pe.org 041-452 3095	Young Park 6001 082 862 8609



Due to the unforeseen circumstances regarding COVID-19, we were unable to host the Easter Market this year.

The Easter Raffle was extended and continued to take place, Now we wish to congratulate our lucky winners.