



LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH Friedenskirche Church of Peace



No: 2021.02 e

Newsletter May 2021



Fear vs Facts,

Common sense, and Wisdom.

The “*Super-spreader*” Event is a term coined as the world grappled to understand and combat Covid 19. The world *feared* and warned citizens against the infection dangers of such events where often the most basic protocols were treated by those attending complacency under the banner of infringement of one’s basic rights to make one’s own decisions as one sees fit. Many at super-spreader events did not wear masks or observe social distancing often with regrettable and even tragic consequences. The virus, if it had a personality, does not care about human rights and the like. Its sole aim being to invade and attack a host, replicate, and find another. Complacency, or simply insisting on our civil right to decide for ourselves whether to follow safety protocols just leaves the “door” open with a “welcome mat” for the virus to enter the body. *The*

*term “Follow the Science” was also born during the pandemic and has shown to provide **factual** and **common sense** information.*

Mask wearing, social distancing and sanitising continue to rank as the simplest and most effective ways of protecting yourself and others.

Science has recently, after intense research, produced vaccines for distribution this year. Some require extreme cold storage, others less so. With millions of doses being ordered by countries throughout the world the logistics of maintaining the cold-chain integrity until administration of the dose has surely been a daunting task. Finally, *Wisdom* is needed in understanding the facts and to concede personal or civil rights to ensure the “*bodily doors*” are closed to the virus to the best of each of our ability. Observation and complicity with safety protocols is vital in protecting ourselves and considering the protection of others including at Church Services.

In Christ are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Colossians 2:3)

Reinhard Walle
Committee Chairman

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

AGM 25 April 2021 — Introduction & Review

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Lutheran Church of Peace, Port Elizabeth was held in the Church Hall on Sunday, 25 April 2021 immediately after the Divine Service and attended by 17 congregants and Pastor Anja Spiske. It was indeed a very fruitful and constructive meeting where reports were warmly received, important contributions made and sound decisions taken, offering much hope for future development to the church for it to rise as a sanctuary where there is abundant faith, much trust and infinite love. The tone of the meeting was most encouraging especially after the Covid 19 pandemic hard lockdown year in 2020 that we had experienced.

After the Chairperson of the Church Committee, Reinhard Walle, had extended a welcome to everyone he requested Pastor Anja Spiske to open the deliberations with a prayer. Before the prayer she quoted Psalm 48:14, *"For this God for ever and ever; He will be our guide even to the end"*. Then she prayed for God's guidance to lead us through our deliberations.

The following reports, namely, the Pastor's report, the Chairperson's report, the finance statement 2020 were presented and accepted. It was noted that Mr Gerhard Frohlich had resigned as treasurer of the church and Mr Henry Newman appointed as interim treasurer.

Just before the presentation of the budget for 2021 by the interim treasurer, the Chairperson, Mr Reinhard Walle, delivered a special report on the

changes in the parameters of our pastor's post. This was deemed to be an important report because, like in the case of most churches there is a link between the health of a church's financial strength and its ability to adequately support a pastor's post. Budgets play an important role in developing the ability to succeed in providing this adequate support.

The special report on the state of the pastor's post evoked empathetic and sympathetic emotions of members but then also through discussion and God's guidance brought about forward-looking decisions and proposals that would strengthen rather than weaken the organisation. It was also suggested that we all pray for Pastor Anja to fully regain her health in order for her to realise the dreams that she has for the parish.

The events that were organised during 2020 were relatively successful given that they took place within the parameters of the Covid 19 Pandemic regulations. It was therefore decided to continue with them. The only addition would be an online raffle event that would also be organised.

A daily Bible reading would also be included in the online platform when Pastor Anja sends the watchword of the day.

Desmond Fillis
AGM Minuting Secretary

AGM 25.04.2021 — Pastor's Report 2020

*But **this** I call to mind, and therefore I have **hope**.*

(Lamentations 3:21)

Dear Congregation!

Hope is a much-devalued word in our time, often expressing our desire for an uncertain outcome. In the Bible it is a strong word to express certainty in God's future provision based on his truth and faithfulness, no matter what we are facing and how uncertain the future may be.

This past year we have suffered many losses on many different levels. Grief is important, even for Christians. But as we do, we do it with this proviso: we do not grieve as those without hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13).

Hope is often reborn out of grief. In these particular times we are in, the thing we need to cling to is the promises of Christ, that in fact the promis-

es of Christ are greater than our greatest fear. The most common words that came out of Jesus' mouth during his earthly ministry was, "**Do not be afraid**" or some version of it. More than anything else. He is not saying that there is not any reason to fear. There is plenty of reasons to be afraid. But what He is saying is that He has overcome all that you can be afraid of, that troubles you.

It is not an irrational thing that says, just do not have any fear or any concerns. It is a reminder that all these things in their essence, sin, death, and the devil, He has overcome. Jesus has no need to say that He will send us a Comforter, if we have nothing that we need comfort in.

We have trouble, we have reasons to have anxiety, but we also have this unfailing promise that Christ has given us a Peace amid all this. We have a God who infinitely cares for us. This is the "this" that we must constantly call to mind. We need this being preached to us week after week after week.

In times when many live with fear and anxiety, our message remains the same: Christ is Risen! Trusting in the work of the Holy Spirit, who creates and renews the church, we are called to continue offering a witness of hope.

This past year has been a year unlike any we have experienced before. We had to face many challenges as indi-



Foto: Sean Hawkey

O LORD, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
Psalm 104,24

AGM 25.04.2021 - Pastor's Report 2020

viduals, families, friends and as a congregation. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks and deep gratitude to each and every one of you for the considerate, compassionate, and understanding way you have responded to the covid crisis! We have all worked together to hold fast to the safety measures imposed by local and national authorities, despite the impact these have had for the life and witness of the church.

I believe that it is no small matter that, although we have had cases of infection, we have not lost one of our members due to the virus. We thank God for His gracious Hand of protection over us! Sadly, we have lost a few of our members during this difficult time where hospital visits were either limited or entirely prohibited. This has made an exceedingly difficult time even more difficult, especially for the loved ones. May you all be filled and comforted by God's Peace.

Despite restrictions, we have also held fast to continue praying and worshipping together, finding new and creative ways to do so, and also serving our neighbour, even if physically distant. Our church committee has worked extremely hard, to ensure the safety of all our members and to make sure that the Divine Services and the Proclamation of the Word continue. Let us all be encouraged by this to continue sharing in our places the deep hope that is within all of us.

My fear is that people may get used to the idea of not going to church. How long does it take for a habit to form? Besides the health concerns that I have for my congregation, this would be another great concern of mine. Going to hear the Word, receiving Word and Sacrament is a habit that a Christian creates over a lifetime. Habits are hard to develop and easy to let go of.

But something as constructive and as good for self and family as being fed by the Word and Sacrament every Sunday is something that takes a certain effort on the part of the Christian and the Christian family. And it would be an easy habit to leave laying on the wayside. I think this is something that people need to be vigilant of. But I also think, and this is my hope, that there is a possibility that the reverse could happen as well, that absence could make the heart grow fonder.



Your righteousness is like
the mighty mountains,
your judgements
are like the great deep. .
Psalm 36:6

AGM 25.04.2021 - Pastor's Report 2020

This can happen in a variety of ways. Let me use a simple illustration to explain: There is your favourite fast-food place you love to go to regularly. When you cannot go there for a considerable amount of time it is a real bummer. If the place says that they are re-opening again you say, 'I'm going to be up in that line as soon as I can to get that food.' It works the same way for me in terms of church on Sunday.

I could miss a week or two as soon as I can go again, I would want to go. As people pull back in their houses with their families they could, potentially anyway, relish the opportunity to get back together with people and do these things, that there could be a sense of taking the 'communion of saints' for granted that could end up going away at the back end of this.

This is easy to take for granted, - being able to interact with people and give people hugs and hang out, and laugh and eat and drink and all that, - these are all things that we take for granted that we should not.

Church is the same, the 'communion of saints' is the same way, the Lord's Supper is the same way. There is at least a possibility that this could be going in that direction as well, that people start to value again how important these things really are. I am hoping it would.

The virus has also exposed a rampant, pervasive inequality and in-

justice in the world, within societies and communities. We hear painful stories about hunger among individuals and in communities. Many local economies rely on people being out in the streets or in the markets daily to earn a living. Because of lockdowns, people are not able to bring the daily bread to their homes.

Thank you for all the support you have shown in our outreach initiatives. Under Level 5 lockdown we have started initially with collecting non-perishable food items to put together food parcels. Thank you for coming out despite your anxiety to bring food and give donations so we could help those who so desperately needed it.

From these small beginnings grew two major projects that are currently funded by the LWF (Lutheran World Federation in Geneva) and the ELM (Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Hermannsburg, Germany).

With the funds from LWF we were able to assist Wabamkela (creche for children from disadvantaged backgrounds) with food, clothing, face masks and sanitizer for the children and their families.

And with the funds from ELM, we were able to supply food vouchers for refugee families from Malawi and Zimbabwe. These families were/are particularly vulnerable as they do not receive any assistance from the state.

AGM 25.04.2021 - Pastor's Report 2020

Thank you to all of you who supported and assisted with these important projects. Let us all be encouraged by this and remain open to the other and tend to the pain and the suffering of those most vulnerable. Jesus taught us to see his face in those turning to us with need of food, water, clothes, and shelter (Mt. 25:37-41).

Thankfully, we are now able to have in-person Divine Services again where we can come together as the body of Christ to receive His Word as it is proclaimed to us from the pulpit and to receive Christ himself, his body and blood in bread and wine at the altar, something we may have taken for granted in the past.

It is our hope that our members will with time feel safer and return to church and physically be in the place where God promised to be present with us and for us. We hope to see the return of our families with parents and children too – we miss them.

The Church is not only a place, a building, a steeple, a pew. The Church is a people. Person linked with person, all ages and genders and abilities, a community built on the foundation of faith, hope and love.

The Church is the gathering together of all the people, and experiences, gathering however we can, to say to one another and to the world:

Come in, lay down your hurt and anxiety and pick up hope and trust. For

the Church is us – each and every one of us – together.

We do not fully know what the future holds in these challenging times. Yet, we know who holds it. Let us therefore remain steadfast in our calling. God's mission is ongoing. Hence our witness shall continue.

In this spirit, let us all be encouraged to continue our witness, wherever we are and where God has placed us, being ambassadors of the good news of Jesus Christ, serving our neighbours, and advocating for love and justice so that it rolls down like a river (Amos 5:24).

All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.

(Titus 3:15)

Yours sincerely,
Pastor Anja



Foto: Albin Hillert

The earth brought forth vegetation:
plants yielding seed of every kind,
and trees of every kind bearing fruit
with the seed in it.

And God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1:12

AGM 25.04.2021 - Chairman's Report 2020

2020 was an eventful year to say the least.

The Covid-19 Pandemic overshadowed our daily lives and has changed our way of home, work and church life. We abide by the Covid 19 safety protocols at all Services with social distancing, mandatory wearing of masks and hand sanitizing being key.

Our Pastor Anja together with your Church Committee embraced the challenges of technology and Divine Services continued in both German and English throughout the Covid lockdown restrictions.

In addition, Pastor Anja has diligently maintained her contact with the Congregation through the daily Watchwords and prayers sent out on WhatsApp. The Congregational WhatsApp platform has evolved and keeps all of us informed with the happenings in our congregation.

Thank you to Ryan, Henry and all who played a part assisting with the technological challenges in getting the messages and information out to all of us. Our Newsletter is produced digitally by our dedicated Newsletter Team and goes out worldwide via the internet and E-Mail.

The congregation has faced many financial problems in the past and 2020 has been no exception. It has been a year of change as well. The

Pandemic put paid to most of our fundraising events.

Last year Ryan Meyer was elected to the committee. It was refreshing to also have his young ideas and enthusiasm contributing to the committee. His technical and IT knowledge has been particularly helpful. He helped with two new concepts to raise much needed funding. The Money Wall was started and still continues 3 monthly. The Go-Get on line funding initiative was also something new and was also successful. It brought in roughly what the Easter market would have normally brought in.

Geoff brought in the idea of a "Marketless" Easter Market that also was successful in bringing in further funds.

The idea of a Church Kitchen Take-out was borne with the partnership of Pastor Anja and Rivka Rath. It is becoming more and more popular with hassle free ordering able to be done via a dedicated WhatsApp Group. Pick up is also easy – and Covid protocols being observed.

In 2020 Sicilia Welcome resigned from the committee. She has been sorely missed. We thank her for her hard work and dedication to this congregation.

At the end of 2020, Gerhard Fröhlich advised that he would not be available for re-election at the coming

AGM 25.04.2021 - Chairman's Report 2020

AGM. Gerhard has served our congregation as Treasurer since 2008 and together with Gunter Fröhlich our Bookkeeper, have faithfully carried out their respective roles sometimes in the face of financially difficult times.

Gunter also advised the committee that unfortunately he would not be in a position to continue in the role as Bookkeeper to the congregation in 2021. I would like to sincerely thank them both for their dedicated service to the committee and this congregation over the years.

At last year's AGM, Henry Newman made it known that he was not available for re-election. However, as there was unfortunately no nomination to fill his position on the committee, and with numbers becoming less, the chairman asked Henry to consider staying on ad interim until a successor could be nominated and elected. The committee last year unanimously appointed Henry in the interim. With his expertise in finance, Henry was appointed by the committee as interim Treasurer from January 2021 to continue this vital role.

Natasha Meyer, a trained professional bookkeeper, was co-opted to assist the committee and the congregation's Treasurer. Although having provisionally relocated to Cape Town, Ryan and Natasha have continued their church membership and are ac-

tively engaged in the Friedenskirche using all the remote technology available to continue to be part of this congregation. We thank them for their loyalty and dedication.

We would like to ask interested people to try out the work of the church committee. They could attend the meetings and get a feel for how the committee works and where their particular talents and gifts can be of use to the congregation. If appropriate, to then make themselves available for nomination in 2022, without "jumping in at the deep end".

Regular Stewardship contributions make us less reliant on events income to make up monthly payments



Foto: *Johanan Celine Valeriano*

But speaking the truth in love,
we must grow up in every way into
him who is the head, into Christ,
from whom the whole body,
joined and knitted together
by every ligament with which it is
equipped, as each part is working
properly, promotes the body's growth
in building itself up in love.
Ephesians 4:15-16

AGM 25.04.2021 - Chairman's Report 2020

to the Cape Church. The spin-off being that income from events can then be better utilised for our own congregation's needs and projects.

I would like to thank members of the church committee for their hard work to get things done. Each has used his or her gifts and talents in the running of our congregation and supporting our Pastor. Our meetings and discussions have always been respectful of each other's points of view in a pleasant and often fun atmosphere.

To Henry, the committee thanks you for allowing us to make use of your home when we weren't able to meet at the church centre.

You may well have noticed by now that we finally have a beautiful new hall floor. It replaces the original one from 1971 that Geoff Andrews has quietly and efficiently been nurturing in its old age with many an emergency repair in recent years.

Auke and Henry have been a driving force in recent weeks to have a tiling contractor quote and do the job. Thank you to all who have contributed to the Hall Floor Project so far.

The maintenance team has been coming in on most Wednesdays to tackle the continuing list of maintenance tasks needing attention.

To Auke, thank-you for giving your time and talent to our regular Wednesday maintenance and

cleaning days and the assistance given by Rumbi who does the cleaning and Jabulani who helps all round with the maintenance. Rivka Rath is also a willing helper around the manse freeing Pastor Anja to do her Pastoral work.

Our Friday Kitchen is an initiative by Pastor Anja and run by Rivka Rath. It is starting to take off as a Friday "Mom's night out take-away" and is providing an additional source of income for our congregation. Rivka has developed the *Lutheran Church Take-out* ordering facility on WhatsApp to streamline the pre-ordering process. We encourage all to support this new fundraising effort.

Thank you to each and everyone who has shared his or her talents and helped our congregation in whatever way, big or small. Your efforts are appreciated.

I look with excitement and positivity to the future of our congregation and its Pastor. Let us keep caring for one another and remain positive in our thoughts and deeds.

Reinhard Walle
Chairman

Renovation of the Hall Floor

Hooray we have a new hall floor!

Over the last few years Geoff Andrews had repaired the hall floor time and time again with a lot of effort and expense. In 2020, however, we had to realise that the life span was truly over, and we urgently needed to renew the hall floor.

After weighing the available funds and the possibility of getting additional money for the renovation, the church committee decided on ceramic tiles with a wooden decor. Money was received via crowdfunding and an interest-free interim financing was found, so that the renovation was commissioned at the beginning of April.

A big thank you also goes to Auke Brand, who tackled all the necessary additional work (e.g. adapting all the doors to the new floor height) in a flash. So, the Annual General Meeting could be held in the renovated hall.

Cost overview: :	Paid	Budget
Ceramic Tiles	21'918.60	36'000
Other material	22'000.00	25'000
Labour	27'900.00	27'900
Contingencies	430.00	1'100
Total 186 sqm	72'248.60	90'000

Dear congregation, I hope you are also excited about the new hall floor! Could you sponsor the cost of a few square metres? Thank you very much for any donation.

For **1 sqm** we paid **R 388.00**.

Henry Newman



Prayercards May

1 May: Ayesha van Wyk

2 May: Barbara Rath

3 May: Branson Bosman

4 May: Brenda Lentz

5 May: Brunhilde Koch

6 May: Chad Deutschmann

16 May: Janine Wright

17 May: Jutta Rohwer

18 May: Kirsty Fillis

19 May: Lorinda Koch

20 May: Melissa Fillis

21 May: Michelle Harmse

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

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**

7 May: Colin Lentz

8 May: Derek Thompson

9 May: Elise Schaberg

10 May: Elizabeth Köpke

11 May: Gerry West

12 May: Gisela Mahlert

13 May: Gisela Ruppelt

14 May: Hans Rohwer

15 May: Hildegard Dreier

22 May: Nicole Wright

23 May: Owen Kivedo

24 May: Reinhard Mahlert

25 May: Rivka Rath

26 May: Robin Arends

27 May: Roshni Groenmeyer

28 May: Roswell Kivedo

29 May: Sigi Sauer

30 May: Stefan Jachens

31 May: Thomas Jachens

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

1. Timothy 2:1

Sundays and Celebration Days May 2021

Dear members, dear friends

Under the present COVID-level regulations we are able to offer **live services** at our Church of Peace, but for those who cannot come, we **publish handouts** so that you can celebrate the service also at home. If possible, we will also send out a **voice message** with the spoken sermon after the service. These are available at our WhatsApp-Group:



Lutheran Congregation

Please send a message to
Pastor Anja if interested

072 734 9995

The following regulations apply:

- ♦ Max. 45 persons per service
- ♦ Bring your face mask with you and wear it the whole time. Sanitizing when entering the church and fill in the COVID Protocol Register.
- ♦ 3 persons per pew (1-1-1) or for couples (2- -1), larger families from the same household can sit together in one pew
- ♦ every second pew remains free
- ♦ in the foyer and on the mezzanine there are additional chairs 1.5m apart
- ♦ The Organ will play and you can sing the hymns. The lyrics will be projected as we are not allowed to use hymn books.
- ♦ Communion is received individually (disposable cups)
- ♦ No gatherings before or after the service

2 May 2021

09:30 (D)

Cantate



Watchword (Psalm 98:1):

O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvellous things.

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

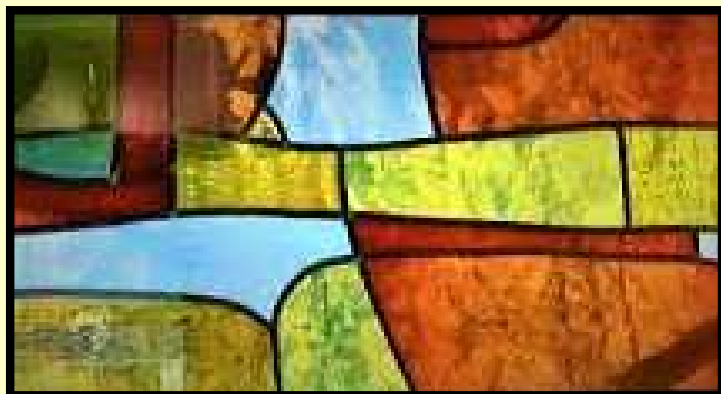
Luke 19:37-40

Sundays and Celebration Days May 2021

9 May 2021

9:30 (E)

Rogate



Watchword (Psalm 66:20):

Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

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 a listening God. Not our will but God's will shall be done.

Sermon

Sirach 35:16-22a

13 May 2021

18:00 (E)

The Ascension of Our Lord



Watchword for the Day (John 12.32):

And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself. Says Christ.

"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

Ephesians 1:20b-23

Sundays May 2021

16 May 2021

09:30 (E)

Exaudi

23 May 2021

09:30 (E)

Pentecost



Watchword (John 12:32):

And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself. Says Christ.

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
John 7:37-39

Watchword (Zechariah 4:6b):

Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord of hosts.

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
Genesis 11,1-9

Sundays May 2021

30 May 2021 09:30 (E/Family)
Trinity Sunday



Watchword (2 Corinthians 13:13):

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the one God in three persons – for many so difficult to understand. Three in one - how is that supposed to work? On the Sunday of Trinity, Christians celebrate the Feast of the Trinity of God - a theological idea that is difficult and yet tells a lot about the nature of God. God is more comprehensive than a person can comprehend. But He is involved in a story with us humans and reveals himself to us more and more: as a father. As father, God chooses his people, as a son he takes care of the fate of all humans, finally he dwells in every single person: as enthusiasm, as comforter and as power of love. God is pure relationship - to the world and in himself. Nobody is excluded from his presence. God cannot and will not be only for himself. An expression of this is the Trinity.

Sermon

John 3:1-8(9-13)

Children's Church

A normal church service can be quite long for children. To ensure that the young members of our congregation also hear God's message, understand it and, above all, find it interesting, we have a monthly children's service (currently only in English).

Parallel to the traditional Sunday service, the children can experience Bible stories in a different way. There is always something going on with puppets, figures or acting out the stories. But not only that: the children do handicrafts, paint, or create biblical content in a special way.

The children start the main service together with their parents and then go into the children's room after about 10 minutes with their children's service candle and a blessing. The children then return to the church for communion. Of course, curious parents are also welcomed to drop in and join in.

The last Sunday of the month is a family service and the whole family celebrates together. The service includes a special block for the children.

If you have any questions, wishes or comments, please contact:
Elizabeth Köpke
071 572 0433



Thoughts on Pentecost - Acts 2:1.2.6

Pentecost - this is a festival that we do not so easily understand. Not without Easter and Ascension. But what does this mean to us today? What can all these stories, already told and interpreted a thousand times, mean to us today? As a Christian or as an interest-ed person?

The women around Jesus are present during his death and meet him first after his resurrection. He talks to them and they believe him. They saw him - he was alive! The disciples on the other hand were more restrained, more unbelieving. It needed more convincing than being able to see. To convince Thomas he had to feel and touch to be able to believe. Then Jesus departed.

He left behind consternation, perplexity, resignation. Two followers even went home to Emmaus, disappointed. They met Jesus but still could not see that what seemed impossible has come true. Only through stories he tells them and by a ritual they knew well, they were slowly convinced and became aware of this miracle. Jesus was no longer there in flesh; he is in heaven. He is sitting at the righthand of his father, God Almighty. That is how it is told. There was a festival in the temple.

Many people were there, including the followers of Jesus, and they were waiting for something, but for what? That some-thing will be fulfilled, that something will be completed. When Jesus left, he promised that when he

goes, some-thing will come that com-forts, en-courages and, above all, stays with them. All the guests at the feast are very shocked when they saw something, felt something, and even understood it, because all those who explained, were able to make themselves understood. The disciples themselves were amazed at their abilities; they were enthusiastic.

A new community was born, it will be called the Church. What is it that comes roaring up at Pentecost? "The breath of understanding" - nothing other than knowledge, euphoric enthusiasm, wisdom; a sense of unity: Agreement around the good things in life, the good qualities that people could have, the good effects of thoughts, carried through to the end, good deeds with good effects.

One can hardly believe what happened after As-cension Day. And yet wisdom, holy spirituality, has now come upon men and women and shall leave them no more. God the Father, the masculine, God the Holy Spirituality, the feminine, and God the Son, Jesus the Man, who unites both in Himself and was the earthly, perishable, sentient, human and now equally divine, a third part of the whole GOD.

The whole story, all the experiences of the disciples, the women and all the others carry messages

Thoughts on Pentecost - Acts 2:1.2.6

to us that we can either hear, or ignore. There would be one or two who have felt such fear of coming to harm themselves that they may have lied and then felt very ashamed. Feeling lifeless.

Simply not being able to believe something, because it would be too wonderful, the fear of disappointment paralyzes one and makes one feel lifeless.

Losing someone or something on which all our hope, all our aspiration has hung, leaves us numb. And such hopelessness, where only one desire prevails - to hole up and take refuge - makes us (like the disciples then) feel like we are dead.

Easter is a festival of joy; we should celebrate that Jesus has conquered death. Death is defeated, the end is not absolute, and we are finally to understand this at Pentecost.

Perhaps it really does take 50 days to understand that all good things come in threes and it is often hard work to believe that darkness is always followed by light, because that is what it means to trust.

Pentecost - 50 days "afterwards" when all people, are flooded with trust and understanding. It is recognized that man needs companionship, listening needs living stories to make sense of them.

And sometimes man needs something higher than himself or his neigh-

bour, like one or the other aspect of GOD or even the one GOD as a whole.

In this way we may find better a way out of the dark hours of brooding over unedifying thoughts, of sadness and despondency, the tinge of futility - a way out of the realm of death into a heavenly feeling, like

- excitement about the birth of a child
- be in seventh heaven, like being madly in love;
- laughing out loud at successful humour;
- rejoicing over a success win;
- Being blissful that someone is finally back, recovered;
- dancing overjoyed, feeling alive, experiencing it.

As if one would like to embrace the whole world - this is perhaps how the holy spirit feels - alive - as if in heav-en!

I wish you well for the Festival of Pente-cost, lively enthusiasm and moments of happiness and bright joy, because this strengthens us like no other tonic - this is how we conquer "as if dead" in our own way.

Deaconess

Birgit-Patricia Eilenberger

(for reasons of space the original article has been shortened by the editors, you can get it from us in full length).

Preparation

The description of the Ascension itself is short everywhere in the Bible:

Mark 16:19

So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

Luke 24:50

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.

Acts 1,9

When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

The last words of Jesus before his ascension are found at the end of each of the Gospels:

- **Matthew 28:18-20 and Mark 16:15-18**
Jesus sends his disciples
- **Acts 1:3-8**
Jesus speaks of the Kingdom of God and promises them the Holy Spirit
- **Luke 24:44-50**
Jesus explains to them how to read the Old Testament

The Ascension of Jesus Christ

When Jesus was ready to return to heaven, he took his disciples aside to make sure that they understood everything that had happened to him. He explained why it was important for him to be crucified and to be raised from the dead to fulfil what the scriptures had said about him. He also told them that he was going to return to his Father in heaven, and that the Holy Spirit would come to be with them.

At first, the disciples were sad that Jesus would be leaving them, but then the Bible tells us that Jesus opened their minds so they would understand. Then, an amazing thing happened. The Bible tells us that Jesus lifted his hands and blessed his disciples. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up to heaven.

I do not know how all of this looked, but in my imagination, I can see the disciples standing and watching as Jesus ascended higher and higher until he disappeared. Were the disciples sad? No way! The Bible tells us that when Jesus had ascended into heaven, the disciples worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. There they stayed continually in the temple, praising God.

Even today we too can worship God with great joy in our hearts.



AGM 25 April 21 — Budget 2021 / Report 2020

Stewardship	2021 p.m.	2021 p.a.	2020 p.a.	2019 p.a.	2018 p.a.	2017 p.a.
100% Post	52'000	624'000	624'000	610'800	567'960	551'760
-40%	-20'800	-249'600				
-25%			-156'000	-152'700	-118'321	
Subsidy	-6'000	-72'000	-90'000	-90'000	-95'000	-120'000
net Payment	25'200	302'400	378'000	368'100	354'639	431'760

The monthly stewardship payment to the Cape Church is the largest expenditure item in our annual budget. The table above shows the calculation of the net payment to the Cape Church. The first line shows the monthly (p.m.) or annual (p.a.) cost (the last four years are also shown in comparison to 2021). Since Church of Peace only has a 60% part-time position in 2021 (2018 -2020 was a 75% position), a 40% (25%) share is deducted. Furthermore, we receive a subsidy. Net we have to pay R 25'200 every month in the year 2021.

Ideally, this amount should be covered by the income from "church contributions". Unfortunately, we also have to use collections and part of the hall rental income:

	2021 p.m.	2021 p.a.
Contributions	20'830	250'000
Collections	3'000	36'000
Rental Income	1'370	16'400
Total	25'200	302'400

We would be very pleased, if you could be in a position this year, to pay a bit more contribution than in 2020. As we have to transfer our stewardship to the Cape Church

around the 20th calendar day each month, could you transfer your contribution also before the 20th. Some pay annually, unfortunately we do not know in advance in which month so a switch to monthly payments would be very welcome.

We will keep you regularly informed of the financial position of our congregation

Henry Newman
Treasurer a.i.



Foto: Albin Hillert

For in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers - all things have been created through him and for him.

He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
Colossians 1:16-17

AGM 25 April 21 — Budget 2021 / Report 2020

Budget 21 31.12.20 31.12.19

Income	758'480	590'322	639'912
Contributions	250'000	246'470	221'494
Red. Parttime Post	249'600	156'000	122'700
Subsidy	72'000	90'000	120'000
Collections	36'030	35'609	55'728
Donation	28'000	10'487	9'206
Events	40'500	32'471	83'354
Rental Income	80'190	19'285	26'380
Other Income	2'160	-	1'050

Budget 21 31.12.20 31.12.19

Expenditure	761'560	720'155	722'459
<i>Cape Church</i>			
100% Stewardship	624'000	624'000	610'800
<i>Maintenance</i>			
Building	9'000	8'076	12'195
Maintenance Help	7'200	-	-
Music Instruments	1'900	974	928
Cleaning Costs	13'860	7'040	10'260
<i>Admin Costs</i>			
Insurances	21'240	19'937	18'335
Water and Electricity	17'000	15'472	15'312
Security Costs	9'000	7'980	7'480
Telephone	9'600	9'517	9'702
Bank Charges	4'800	3'782	5'092
Computer Expenses	3'240	-	4'999
Newsletter	1'200	1'589	4'757
Travel Costs	4'000	-	-
<i>Other Costs</i>			
Depreciation	14'400	14'452	14'452
Manse Help	9'600	-	-
Sundry	2'400	7'336	6'238
Audit fees	5'520	-	1'909

Budget 21 31.12.20 31.12.19

Operating Deficit	-3'080	-129'833	-82'547
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ELCSA—MediumTermLoan

In addition, we still need income (Bell Tower Project MTL) to fully repay the medium-term loan granted to us by the Cape Church by the end of 2021.

01.01.2019	135265
Payback 2019	-34340
01.01.2020	100925
Payback 2020	-60190
01.01.2021	40735
Payback 2021	-40'735
01.01.2022	0

LWF—Winter Warmers

We received another payment from the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) so that we can once again distribute food and clothes to the Wabamkela Crèche.

Funds received 2020	87086
Pay-Out 2020	-85435
01.01.2021	1'651
Funds received 2021	6'310
Pay-Out 2021	-7'961

ELM Needy

As planned, the distribution of food vouchers can be continued. Many thanks to the ELM Lower Saxony/Germany

Funds received 2020	144000
Pay-Out 2020	-32000
01.01.2021	112'000
Pay-Out 2021	-112'000

Maintenance and Renovation Church Centre

Unfortunately, not all the necessary maintenance work could be carried out in the last few years, the list of open items became longer and longer.

This year, we have started to tackle the most important "minor" repairs and touch-ups ourselves. We, meaning Jabulani, a good skilled worker and myself. The salary costs for him were integrated into this year's budget. Major renovations were still outsourced to external contractors (hall: new floor, church: fascia boards).

First, many thanks to Geoff Andrews for organising and supervising the renovation work at the **Church of Peace**: Front side - remove front wooden capping off fibre cement boards. Remove board on east side of front and replace timber structure. Refit boards. West side - remove front board from entrance canopy and replace rotten timber frame. Supply and fit flashing. Make good canopy ceiling by fixing. Apply waterproofing rubber seal to metal ridging of flat roof.

Henry Newman reports on the renovation of the **hall floor** on page 10 in this newsletter.

The following work was completed last month and crossed off the to-do list:

- Kitchen service hatch repaired
- Kitchen service hatch varnishes
- Kitchen window sill repainted
- Outside ceiling repaired and painted
- Kitchen wall outside painted
- Ceiling in meeting room repaired and painted
- All equipment removed from hall and meeting room for tiling
- Put back all tables and chairs
- All doors removed for tiling, cut to new size and put back

The following is in progress and will be completed soon:

- Kitchen ceiling
- Put back piano and cupboards after tiling

Auke Brand
Maintenance



Birthdays May

03 May Liane Botha

05 May Rea Letsholonyane

06 May Rivka Rath

07 May Sharon Bürger

07 May Susanne Zifreund

09 May Precious Mulioh

13 May Clinton Sternberg

14 May Ayesha van Wyk

15 May Geoff Andrews

21 May Joshua Harmse

23 May Nicholas Jachens

23 May Winfried Tessendorf

25 May Roshni Bosman

26 May Shereez Visagie

29 May Ryan Meyer

30 May Erwin Gehring

30 May Hildegard Dreier

31 May Joy Cairncross





Church Committee 2022

Pastor Anja Spiske	33 Luke Avenue, (Manse) pastor@lutheran-pe.org	Springfield 6070 041-367 1986 H 072 734 9995
Reinhard Walle (Chairman)	4 May Way chairman@lutheran-pe.org	Sunridge Park 6045 063 685 0263
Henry Newman (Membership) (Treasurer a.i.)	81 Villiers Road, membership@lutheran-pe.org treasurer@lutheran-pe.org	Walmer 6070 078 703 7003
Auke Brand (Maintenance)	52 Bernard Road warden1@lutheran-pe.org	Lovemore Heights 6025 041-367 5287 082 824 7345
Carol Buschhold	25 St Louis, Nerina Ave warden4@lutheran-pe.org	Kamma Park 6070 071 6376 372
Elizabeth Köpke	9 Woodville Road No E-Mail	Mill Park 6025 071 572 0433
Ryan Meyer	warden3@lutheran-pe.org	073 230 2513

Bank Details:

First National Bank,

Branch Code: 211217

Account: 534 200 32476

Walmer Branch

Lutheran Church

The congregation's Levy is paid to the Cape Church each month. The recommended contribution per family is R 550 per month, however, all contributions, small or large help to our commitment. 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**

Table of Contents

Newsletter May 2021

Covid-19 Thoughts	1	Divine Services	12-15
AGM - Review	2	Children's Church	15
AGM - Pastor's Report	3-6	Thoughts on Pentecost	16-17
AGM - Chairman's Report	7-9	Kids Page	18-19
Renovation Hall Floor	10	AGM - Budget 2021	20-21
Prayer Cards May 2021	11	Maintenance	22
COVID Regulation Services	12	Birthdays May	23
		Church Committee	24

